

Re: Request for Comment: 6pm EST Deadline

Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Tue 10/4/2022 11:08 AM

To: kelisa.wing@dodea.edu <kelisa.wing@dodea.edu>

Cc: Amber Todoroff <Amber.Todoroff@openthebooks.com>; Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Dear Ms. Wing,

It's important to get your side of the story in our investigative piece. We've extended the deadline for your comments and want to provide plenty of real estate for your perspective, context, or feedback. Thank you for considering this comment request.

Our new deadline for comment is 7am ET tomorrow, October 5, 2022. If you miss our extended deadline and still respond, we'll do our best to update our piece on a timely basis.

Please see our questions forwarded in the email from our researcher Amber Todoroff below...

ABOUT US

OpenTheBooks.com – We believe transparency is transformational. Using forensic auditing and open records, we hold government accountable. In 2021, we filed 47,000 FOIA requests and successfully captured \$12 trillion government expenditures: federal spending; 50 state checkbooks; and 25 million public employee salary and pension records from 50,000 public bodies across America. Our works have been featured on the BBC, Good Morning America, ABC World News Tonight, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, The New York Times, NBC News, FOX News, Forbes, National Public Radio (NPR), & many others.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)

CEO & Founder

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From: Amber Todoroff <Amber.Todoroff@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 11:59 AM

To: kelisa.wing@dodea.edu <kelisa.wing@dodea.edu>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: Request for Comment: 6pm EST Deadline

Dear Ms. Wing,

I'm a researcher working on behalf of OpenTheBooks.com CEO and Founder Adam Andrzejewski. OpenTheBooks.com publishes reports and articles focused on transparency in government spending. Adam is working on an article about your role as diversity chief at DoDEA and is copied on this email.

I've watched several of your talks, read many of your blogs, and have some questions. We are seeking comment by 6pm EST today, but if you need more time let me know. I've broken questions out by category for your convenience:

Comments Made During non-DoDEA Interviews Using DoDEA Title

- Usually federal employees, when giving talks on non-government platforms, state that their views are their own and not their employers. In some of your talks, such as Albany State University's A Sacred Space panel, you discuss your title and role, saying DoDEA colleagues conduct "performative allyship" and suggesting teachers that refer students to administrators are like Amy Cooper. Were you authorized to speak on behalf of DoDEA for this and other discussions? Other discussions we're particularly interested in are your 2021 interview with Kwame Sarfo-Mensah and your 2020 interview with CultureFeed's In Character 1 on 1 with Kelisa Wing?
- During Sacred Space talk you say "I am anti-racist, that means I am actively taking a stand to completely tear down, uproot, rebuild, and create something new, and that's exactly what we need to do in education. I know that sounds really revolutionary and hard but there are a lot of mechanisms and tools out there that can help us get there."
 - What "tools and mechanisms" have you been using at DoDEA to conduct these activities? How has DoDEA supported you in this work?

Books, Consulting, and Event Facilitation Activities

- Several DoDEA school libraries contain books written by you. Do you think you had any influence in DoDEA acquiring those books?
- During your presentation at the 2021 DoDEA Equity and Access Summit you mentioned your book on school discipline reform, calling it a "shameless plug." Was this self-promotion endorsed by DoDEA?
- In your 2021 interview with Kwame Sarfo-Mensah on YouTube, you mention conducting a book study for a professional development program. Have you ever used your own books for book studies with your DoDEA colleagues? Could you provide a list of books you have used recently for these activities? Are these book studies conducted during paid employee time?
- Bergen County School district paid you \$7,200 last year for your consulting services. How many other school district clients have you consulted for in the past two years?
 - In a 2020 white paper for Albany State University you said you "leverage" your position as a "teacher leader" to "dismantle disparate systems." Is it fair to say you leveraged your position at DoDEA to amplify your personal profile, attracting clients, book deals, and/or participants at #WOCED talks?
- Has DoDEA authorized your business activities as a book author, event coordinator at [#WOCED](#) (two events hosted with #WOCED collected registration fees), and your consulting firm?

General Questions/Comments

- What is your current employment status at DoDEA?
- Any other comments or context for your comments on inculcating anti-racism policies at DoDEA, creating a "school to activist pipeline" at DoDEA, the current controversies over your tweets, ongoing DoD investigation into your position, the relationship between your various private enterprises and DoDEA work, or anything else you would like us to know. We are very interested in your perspective and will publish your comments in full.

Best,

Amber Todoroff

Deputy Public Policy Editor
OpenTheBooks.com

