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TO: John Miller
Assistant Executive Director
WIAA

Brian Smith
Assistant Executive Director
WIAA

FROM: Carl Blackstone
Robert Westinghouse

DATE: May 18, 2016

RE: WIAA Response to Bellevue School District Violation Report dated May 11, 2016

On March 22, 2016, Carl Blackstone and Robert Westinghouse submitted an Investigative report to the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (“WIAA”) relating to the Bellevue High School (“BHS”) football program. The WIAA Investigative Report (“Investigative Report”) contained findings that BHS and the Bellevue School District (“BSD”) had violated a number of WIAA rules. WIAA provided the Investigative Report to BSD on April 1, 2016. On May 11, 2016, BSD/BHS presented a WIAA Violation Report (“Violation Report” or “District’s Report”) to the KingCo League during a self-report hearing. On May 13, 2016, George Crowder, KingCo League President, requested that WIAA and its investigators evaluate the information contained in the BSD/BHS Violation Report.

The Violation Report identifies 10 allegations in the Investigative Report. The Violation Report provides substantive responses to only six of the allegations. BSD reports that it is continuing to investigate the remaining four violations and represented that it would respond by May 16, 2016. To our knowledge, BSD did not respond by that date.

In this memorandum the WIAA investigators will respond to the six allegations addressed in the Violation Report. The investigators will submit a supplemental response after BSD provides a substantive response to the four remaining allegations.

- BSD had an unofficial partnership with AI which consisted of providing AI with exclusive access to BSD's curriculum, failing to investigate complaints about AI, and providing an endorsement of AI in the face of NCAA scrutiny of AI. (Investigative Report at 43, Exhibit 77 and 44, Exhibits 97, 98, 100).

Allegation #2 – Whether boosters paid for tuition of athletes at the Academic Institute

BSD claims that it is still investigating this allegation and that the “hearing panel can expect a response to this allegation by May 16, 2016.” To our knowledge, BSD did not respond by May 16. Once BSD submits a response to this allegation, the WIAA investigators will respond.

Allegation #3 – Whether athletes used false addresses to gain eligibility

WIAA Rule 18.11.0 provides that in order for a transferring student “to be eligible for varsity competition, transferring students must meet the transferring student requirements of 18.11.1, 18.11.2, 18.11.3, or be granted a waiver under 18.13.0 and 18.25.0.”

WIAA Rule 18.11.2 sets forth how students who are attending a member school shall be deemed to meet the residence rule requirement and transferring student rule requirements:

- A. A student whose transfer is based on a bona fide change of residence to a new school (district) due to an actual physical relocation of and with the entire family unit to a different residence and preceded by termination of all occupancy of their previous residence.

WIAA Rule 3.3.0 provides that “All member school districts of the Association must comply with the rules as stipulated in the Constitution and Rule and Regulations of the Association for interscholastic programs.”

WIAA Rule 3.3.2 provides that “Each Member school has a responsibility to educate its student athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on state association rules, regulations, and policies that could affect them. Further, the member school should monitor its compliance with such state association information.”

The Violation Report addresses student by student the findings of fact regarding their use of false addresses. For many of the students, the District's Report concludes that there has been no violation of the rules regarding residency. In some instances they conclude the student did