

Preliminary Summary Investigation Into Recruiting Allegations at Bellevue High School

August 28, 2012

The office of the Superintendent received an anonymous letter on Friday, August 24, 2012 alleging that Assistant Football Coach, Jeff Razore recruited four current freshman students from another school district to attend BHS for the purpose of playing football with the knowledge of head coach, Butch Goncharoff. The letter suggested that Razore used his position as an AAU basketball coach to form relationships with the families of the students to encourage them to attend BHS.

On August 27, 2012 I met with BHS Principal Scott Powers and Athletic Director Lance Gatter. We reviewed registration and athletics records registration and determined that all four students were registered in accordance with school and district practices. [REDACTED] are twin brothers and it appears that they reside with their mother and step father, ___ and ___ Sepulveda. [REDACTED] resides with his parents, Mike and ___ Rogers. ___ resides with the Rogers family and there is a notarized letter in his registration information signed by his mother ___ giving authority to the Rogers family to make educational and health decisions on her behalf while ___ resides with the Rogers family. In accordance with WIAA regulations, ___ is ineligible for varsity competition for one school year because legal guardianship determined by the courts is the standard required for varsity eligibility by the WIAA. Gatter has informed Mr. Rogers that ___ is ineligible for varsity competition.

On August 27, 2012 Powers, Gatter and I met with Coach Goncharoff. Goncharoff recalled that in April, the four boys arrived at the BHS weight room with Mr. Rogers who informed Goncharoff that they were moving to Bellevue and "checking things out." Goncharoff took them immediately to see Gatter. Goncharoff stated that it was unusual that for four students from outside the district to show up during weight training to "check things out." Gatter confirmed that Goncharoff told him that he thought it was strange and urged Gatter to check out their story. Gatter informed the family that they could not be on campus "checking things out" unless they were registered at the school and that they needed to live in the BHS attendance area in order to enroll. Goncharoff stated that he had no communication before or after until the boys turned up for summer conditioning after they were enrolled. Goncharoff also stated that he reviews WIAA regulations regarding eligibility and recruiting as soon as his coaching staff is assembled and emphasizes that if coaches are approached or contacted by families that do not reside in the BHS attendance area, to contact the school administration. Goncharoff was asked to contact Jacques Coe to discuss how to deal with any media inquiries regarding the allegations.

Powers, Gatter and I also met with Razore on August 27, 2012. Razore reported that the [REDACTED] twins played on an AAU basketball team he coached in the summer of 2011. Razore stated that he has never discussed attending BHS with the [REDACTED] boys or their parents, or any other students or parents. He also stated that he has not had any contact with the [REDACTED] boys or the family since he coached the boys until they were registered at BHS and began participating in summer conditioning. Razore stated that he does not know [REDACTED] the Rogers family or ___. He did recall that Mr. Rogers approached him during the AAU basketball season as [REDACTED] and ___ played on another team in the league. Mr. Rogers informed Razore that they were thinking about attending BHS. Razore stated that he informed Mr. Rogers that

students need to reside in the BHS attendance area in order to attend BHS. Razore denied encouraging or suggesting that Mr. Rogers should move into the BHS attendance area in order to attend the school. I directed Razore not to discuss the allegations with the four boys or anyone else. I also informed Razore that in the future, due to his affiliation with AAU basketball, that if families or students approach him about attending BHS, that he inform them that he cannot discuss the matter because he does not want to create any perceptions that might be misconstrued as recruiting and that any questions about BHS must be addressed with the BHS administration. Razore was also asked to contact Jacque Coe to discuss how to deal with any media inquiries regarding the allegations.

In interviewing Goncharoff and Razore, there was no substantiation to any of the allegations contained in the anonymous letter.

I am in the process of scheduling an interview with the Rogers and Sepulveda families either Friday, August 31 or early the following week.

Respectfully submitted,

John Harrison

Director of Secondary Schools