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TO: John Miller
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Brian Smith
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FROM: Carl Blackstone
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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.

Finally, BSD states that their request to WIAA in August 2015 to investigate AI “highlights BHS’ and BSD’s desire to come to definitive conclusion regarding this allegation.” This is hard to believe. BSD knew of the allegation at least as early as May 2015. If BSD truly believed that additional investigation was needed, they would have undertaken the investigation promptly. Instead, they waited until after the Seattle Times article regarding AI was published on August 25, 2015, before requesting that WIAA investigate the matter. Given these facts, it certainly appears that BSD had no intention of investigating whether ██████ received free tuition at AI and it was only because of the Seattle Times article that the District realized that it had no choice but to investigate the matter.

Because the District’s attempt to explain its failure to not self-report this violation is not credible, the violation should have been reported to the KingCo League on June 1, 2015.

Allegation #10 – Whether athletes have been illegally recruited

Although the WIAA Investigative Report made no findings as to whether BHS had illegally recruited football players, the report recommended that BSD conduct a more thorough investigation into recruitment. BSD has now responded that no such investigation is necessary and in fact, BSD makes the amazing claim that the WIAA Executive Director’s Office should be investigated.

Given that there are so many rumors that BHS recruits football players, which seem to be corroborated by the large number of players who transfer into the district under suspicious circumstances, there is a strong basis for further inquiry. The District is in the best position to carry out such an inquiry. Again a thorough investigation that disproves this allegation would be as beneficial to the program as an investigation that establishes wrong doing and prompts discipline.