

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** John Miller  
Assistant Executive Director  
WIAA  
  
Brian Smith  
Assistant Executive Director  
WIAA

**FROM:** Carl Blackstone  
Robert Westinghouse

**DATE:** May 25, 2016

**RE:** WIAA Response to Bellevue School District's Violation Report dated May 23, 2016

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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 May 11 Violation Report identifies 10 allegations in the Investigative Report. The Violation Report provides substantive responses to only six of the allegations. On May 18, 2016, the WIAA investigators submitted a response to the six allegations addressed in BSD's Violation Report.

On May 23, 2016, BSD presented a supplemental Violation Report to KingCo addressing the four remaining allegations. On the same day, George Crowder requested that the WIAA and its investigators evaluate the information contained in BSD's supplemental Violation Report.

father then met with Jennifer Vice who told him that the tuition would be \$1,500 to \$1,700 a month, which he could not afford. Shortly thereafter, Coach Brown contacted the father and told him that there was some deal which allowed black football players to only pay \$500 a month in tuition. Coach Brown said that Coach Goncharoff had gotten involved and that was why it was going forward.<sup>1</sup> (WIAA Investigative Report at 46-47).

The father was directed to call Joe Razore, who was the Vice-President of the Booster Club. He called Joe Razore and told him that he wanted his son to attend the Academic Institute but he could not afford the tuition. Mr. Razore asked him how much he could afford to pay and the father responded "\$150 a month." Mr. Razore said "okay." Shortly after this conversation, the player enrolled at the Academic Institute. As part of the application process, the family did not fill out any application for scholarship or financial aid. They only paid \$150 a month towards tuition. (WIAA Investigative Report at 44-47). This is corroborated by an e-mail dated April 4, 2013 in which Jennifer Vice confirms that the tuition for the player is \$150 a month. (Exhibit 104A). There is also convincing evidence that the Booster Club paid for this student's tuition. This is reflected in an e-mail Ms. Vice sent to the player's father on August 20, 2013, in which she states "Also the booster club has to agree to pay for another semester before we decide to go that route." (Exhibit 104). The former player attended the Academic Institute for two academic years and ultimately graduated from the Academic Institute in June 2014.

BSD does not contest much of this information. As an initial matter, BSD claimed in its May 11 Violation Report that it was unable to make "their own determination as to the credibility of this information" because the WIAA investigators would not reveal the identity of the player or his father. BSD now admits that Jennifer Vice was able to identify the student, thus, BSD could have interviewed the student and his father, but apparently decided not to do so. BSD did ask Ms. Vice about the above-referenced e-mails and BSD's summary of what she said can only be described as an exercise in obfuscation. BSD reports that:

Ms. Vice stated that the reference to booster money in her email [Exhibit 104] to the family was again her trying to find a way to provide a lower tuition amount for the family. She stated that she was trying to be transparent in her thinking for the family, trying to get the student to commit to school. Ms. Vice felt this was her way of describing to the family that there were many people who wanted to see the student succeed.

(BSD May 23 Violation Report, Allegation #2 at page 4).

<sup>1</sup> BSD claims that the WIAA investigators never asked Coach Brown about this incident. There was no need to ask about this incident because Coach Brown denied that he had ever visited AI and denied that he had talked to any player or family about AI. The investigators did not find Coach Brown's denial credible in light of the fact that BSD admitted that Coach Brown had in fact visited AI (Exhibit 80).