

**Houplin, Barbara A (Sub)**

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**From:** Thai, My-Linh (School Board) <thaim@bsd405.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 06, 2016 7:43 AM  
**Subject:** Re: letter

Thank you Judy!

My-Linh

On Jun 5, 2016, at 1:21 PM,

> wrote:

To the Board of Directors, Bellevue School District:

I am enclosing a letter that hopes to further clarify the conversation I had with Tom Castle and John Connors, in 2007, regarding outside payments to Butch Goncharoff. While no policies were enacted, this was, at the time, an official interpretation of the WIAA/district policy regarding such.

Thank you.  
Judy Bushnell

<butch.docx>

To the Bellevue Board of Directors,

This letter is a follow up to the letter I wrote two weeks ago clarifying the conversation I had with Tom Castle and John Connors regarding payments to Butch Goncharoff. It has been communicated to me that several board members did not consider the conversation to necessarily be official and that no action was taken in its regard. No one from the board has asked me for any clarification of this conversation.

This is a further explanation of that meeting and how that fits into the operation of the board.

As board members we are official designated liaisons with the community. It is a major role for us to bring community issues to the district and to bring back to that community the official district responses. There are thousands of policies that we operate under (district, state, federal, WIAA) and there are many cases where clarification from the superintendent and/or lawyer are needed as we or employees make decisions and implement those policies correctly.

As a board member, and President at the time, I met with these two individuals along with board member, Chris Marks. These members of the Booster Club wanted an official interpretation of the policy that would encompass their request to give direct funds to Mr. Goncharoff, through the district. I went directly to the superintendent and to the district lawyer where the question was reviewed with those responsible for that: Mike Riley, superintendent, and Sharon Howard, district lawyer.

They reviewed and sought advice of the policy and returned to me with their official interpretation:

One, there could be no direct payments through the district.

Two, payments for summer activities outside the coaching timeline and contract could not be restricted by the district.

It is not the board's responsibility to interpret district policy. It is the superintendent's. That is the procedure we followed. This was not something that required board action. It was, however, an official interpretation that was given to provide guidance of district policy to individuals who requested that.

Because of the question and possible confusion, Mike Riley went on to have a full discussion with and interpretation of the policy by the high school principals and athletic directors. That meeting ended with the same two conclusions, giving those responsible for implementing policies clearer understanding and directions. The Booster Club thus went forward, with our knowledge, using these interpretations as their guidelines.

Judy Bushnell