
 YARMUTH WILSDON PLLC

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
RE: BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL PROGRAM**

**Carl
Blackstone**

**Robert
Westinghouse**

Club had not made payments to “anyone over \$500 for their role as a coach” yet he fails to provide any documentation to support his claim nor does he address the reason for the payments reported in the tax returns. He also denied that “Ford Sports Performance was ‘created’ through the Club,” although he did admit that he had “personally partnered with Tracy Ford on Ford Sports Performance.” Mr. Connors offers no explanation as to the details of this partnership.

On June 1, 2015, three days after Mr. Lowell received this letter from Mr. Connors, he prepared the KingCo Conference Violation Report, which contained no mention of payments to coaches, no mention that a player had received free tuition at the Academic Institute, and no mention of the Booster Club’s role in creating Ford Sports Performance. The final report also only mentioned that Coach Goncharoff had paid \$300 to a player’s father and that Mr. Cerillo had “loaned” \$3,000 to the same player’s father. (Exhibit 35).

The District’s self-report to the KingCo Committee should have reported two additional violations. First, the Booster Club’s tax returns, coupled with their refusal to provide records to the District, was more than sufficient evidence to warrant notifying the KingCo committee that BHS coaches had received payments in excess of \$500 without school board approval. Mr. Lowell’s claim that he did not report this violation because the District felt the need to do additional investigation rings hollow in light of the fact that the District failed to conduct such an investigation and precluded us from investigating the matter, claiming it exceeded the scope of the investigation.

Additionally, the District should have self-reported the fact that at least one player had received free tuition at the Academic Institute. Mr. Lowell received this information from the player’s father and Mr. Lowell said there was no reason for him to doubt the father’s credibility. As such, this was significant information which should have been shared with the KingCo committee.

D. Illegal Recruiting

During the course of our investigation, we heard from a number of sources that BHS football coaches, members of the Booster Club, and others had recruited players to play for the BHS football team. These allegations have been around for years and they continue to circulate today. The District and BHS have failed to adequately investigate these allegations. As explained above, in 2006 the District hired a former principal to investigate alleged recruiting violations. Her report, according to the *Seattle Times*, apparently found that 30 football players lived outside the BHS attendance area. Although she found no “smoking gun” that illegal recruitment had occurred, she apparently found “things that might be easily perceived as recruiting” such as “giving prospective student athletes tours of the football facilities and weight room, and talking to them or their relatives about the program before they transferred to Bellevue from other schools.” (Exhibit 24). It is also apparent that the investigator was not able to fully complete her investigation because “it has not been possible to contact or complete interviews with all persons of potential interest.” (Exhibit 27). The District General Counsel recognized that, as a result, the allegations of illegal recruiting had not been put to rest but was in fact “a

BSD_002565). Mr. Connors responds to this allegation by stating that Ford Sports was not “created” through the Club. (Exhibit 17 at 2).