



YARMUTH WILSDON PLLC

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

**Carl
Blackstone**

**Robert
Westinghouse**

funneled to Coach Goncharoff and other coaches, we have been unable to either confirm or deny this concern because the Booster Club has refused to provide us with financial records and Coach Goncharoff has refused to answer any questions relating to payments he received from the Booster Club.

The Booster Club's financial support of the football summer camp clearly constitutes a remuneration or inducement not available to all BHS students. To the extent that this financial support is not deemed a violation of Rule 27.1.0, it clearly violates the spirit of WIAA's core mission to promote fair play on a level playing field. Few if any other high schools in the State have resources to fund such summer camps for football teams. It also raises questions regarding compliance with Title IX requirements to ensure equality between programs for each gender. Allowing one school or one gender to benefit from such largesse, not otherwise available to other member schools or both genders, flies in the face of fundamental fairness. Financial support of this type from a school's booster club should not be permitted.

8. The District failed to self-report two violations of WIAA rules in violation of WIAA Rule 28.1.0, to wit: (1) the payment to coaches by the Booster Club in violation of WIAA Rule 23.1.1; and (2) the payment of tuition at the Academic Institute for one student player in violation of WIAA Rule 27.1.0(A)(1).
9. The District and BHS lack appropriate controls and oversight over the activities and expenditures of funds by the Booster Club. As noted in this report, the Booster Club has operated for its entire existence with minimal, if any, oversight or involvement from the District or BHS administrators. Such lack of involvement and control from either the District or BHS exacerbates the potential for rules violations and excessive financial support. It also directly correlates with the lack of cooperation provided by the Booster Club during this investigation.
10. The District and BHS administrators should structure a formal arrangement to ensure oversight of the Booster Club's relationship with the BHS football program, including the monitoring of all payments to coaches and financial support to the team. In cases where there is reason to scrutinize or question Booster Club activities or financial support after the fact, such involvement and oversight would greatly enhance the District and BHS' ability to insist on Booster Club cooperation. If such cooperation was not forthcoming, the District and BHS administrators should sever the relationship with the organization. During this investigation, we suggested to District representatives that they take action to sever all ties with the Booster Club, if it would not cooperate in this investigation. To our knowledge no such action was taken or even proposed.
11. We recommend that WIAA adopt a new rule requiring member schools to exercise appropriate oversight and control of booster clubs. Such a rule should

also expressly make the actions of booster clubs the direct responsibility of the schools with which they are associated.