

**MEMORANDUM**T 206.516.3800  
F 206.516.3888

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

Brian Smith  
Assistant Executive Director  
WIAA

**FROM:** Carl Blackstone  
Robert Westinghouse

**DATE:** May 18, 2016

**RE:** WIAA Response to Bellevue School District Violation Report dated May 11, 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 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.

grandmother who resided in the Bellevue School District. According to BSD, the [REDACTED] family lived with the grandmother for employment reasons. On its face this explanation is suspect. The [REDACTED] home in Kirkland had an assessed value of \$710,000 in 2010. Bellevue and Kirkland are located in close proximity to each other. It is hard to imagine why the entire [REDACTED] family would vacate their family home and move in with a grandparent. It does not appear that BSD undertook any investigation to determine if the [REDACTED] family was actually living with the grandparent or just using her address to gain admittance to BHS.

BSD also claims to have learned that on January 1, 2011, the [REDACTED] family moved out of the grandmother's home and rented a home located in Medina. They apparently stayed in this rental home for over two and one-half years until June 30, 2013. There is good reason to question the legitimacy of this arrangement. The [REDACTED] still owned their home in Kirkland during the entire time they rented another house in Medina. It certainly does not seem to make economic sense for the [REDACTED] to have vacated their family home and then incur an additional expense of renting another home in Medina. It does not appear that BSD conducted a thorough investigation to determine whether the [REDACTED] actually lived in the rental home. BSD did not interview the owner of the home, nor did BSD request that the [REDACTED] produce documents, other than the lease agreement, such as utility bills, water bills, cable bills, etc. to establish proof of occupancy.

**g. Lack of Oversight by BHS and BSD**

BSD claims that it exercised proper oversight of the BHS football program and did not violate WIAA Rule 3.3.2 which requires a member school to "monitor compliance" with the rules. The WIAA Investigative Report contains numerous facts indicating a pervasive lack of oversight by BSD, including the following:

1. In 2012 Dr. Mills became the Superintendent of the Bellevue School District. Shortly thereafter, a high level District employee met with Dr. Mills and told him there were problems with the BHS football program that he needed to address. Dr. Mills never undertook any investigation. (Investigative Report at 18). The District's Report, which attempts to generally defend its inaction on the ground that anonymous complaints need not be investigated, fails to address Superintendent Mills' failure to act in the face of this complaint or the subsequent complaint from Mercer Island Superintendent Gary Plano, discussed below, neither of which were anonymous.
2. Also, in 2012, Gary Plano, the Mercer Island School Superintendent encouraged Dr. Mills to initiate an investigation into the BHS football