
 YARMUTH WILSDON PLLC

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

**Carl
Blackstone**

**Robert
Westinghouse**

The Academic Institute has gained notoriety because it has reportedly been attended over the last seven years by a large number of student athletes who played football at BHS as well as a smaller number of student athletes who have participated in other sports at BHS. We have been unable to determine exactly how many BHS football players attended the Academic Institute. The District finally provided us with an incomplete list of players who attended the Academic Institute between 2008 and the present. That list reflected that 12 football players attended the Academic Institute on a full-time basis and 15 players took one or more classes at the Academic Institute. (Exhibits 71 and 72).⁴⁵

The Academic Institute has advised us that between 2011 and 2015, 17 football players attended the Academic Institute on a full-time basis and six players attended on a part-time basis.⁴⁶ According to Ms. Vice, 21 of these players played football for BHS and two played for Bellevue Christian. (Exhibit 73 at page 2). We are unable to verify this information because Jennifer Vice, has refused to provide us with the names of any BHS football players who attended the Academic Institute between 2011 and the present, contending that this would be a violation of the students' privacy. (Exhibit 73 at page 2). The Academic Institute's professed concern for student privacy is undermined by the fact that the Academic Institute has no written privacy policy and more significantly, the Academic Institute's public website contains the names and photographs of students, including several BHS football players who attended the Academic Institute in 2012. (Exhibit 74). Moreover, in response to the August 22, 2015, *Seattle Times* article, the Academic Institute issued a public statement claiming that 17 football players attended the Academic Institute. (Exhibit 75).

Suffice it to say a significant number of BHS football players have attended the Academic Institute. In stark contrast, no football players from any of the other three high schools in the Bellevue School District have attended the Academic Institute.

Because the Academic Institute does not have a sports program, its students can, pursuant to WIAA rules, participate in high school sports at the high school servicing the area in which they reside. Although questions have been raised about where some of the football players actually lived while attending the Academic Institute, all but two played football at BHS. The last student athletes who played football at BHS and attended the Academic Institute left the Academic Institute in 2015 after the *Seattle Times* article appeared on August 22, 2015. (Exhibit 72). This abrupt abandonment of the private school which had been the default alternative for BHS football players who experienced academic challenges, in the wake of the *Seattle Times* article and the beginning of this investigation is possibly a tacit admission that the relationship between the District, BHS and the Academic Institute was driven more by the needs of the football team than it was by academics.

⁴⁵ The list of players provided by the District is incomplete because it does not contain the name of any players who attended the Academic Institute on a part-time basis between 2011 and 2013. (Exhibit 72).

⁴⁶ Jeff Lowell advised us that the Academic Institute's did not include players who attended summer school in the number of players who attended the Academic Institute on a part-time basis.