

MEMORANDUM

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TO: John Miller
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FROM: Carl Blackstone
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DATE: May 25, 2016

RE: WIAA Response to Bellevue School District's Violation Report dated May 23, 2016

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 May 11 Violation Report identifies 10 allegations in the Investigative Report. The Violation Report provides substantive responses to only six of the allegations. On May 18, 2016, the WIAA investigators submitted a response to the six allegations addressed in BSD's Violation Report.

On May 23, 2016, BSD presented a supplemental Violation Report to KingCo addressing the four remaining allegations. On the same day, George Crowder requested that the WIAA and its investigators evaluate the information contained in BSD's supplemental Violation Report.

This explanation is strained at best. Apparently Ms. Vice is now claiming that her e-mail was simply an attempt to suggest to the family that they might want to see if the Booster Club could pay their son's tuition. This interpretation flies in the face of the plain language of Ms. Vice's e-mail. Her e-mail contains nothing to support this interpretation. Rather, she states in a simple declarative sentence that the "booster club will have to agree to pay for another semester." The only reasonable interpretation is that Ms. Vice knew that the booster club had been paying the student's tuition and that in order for the student to remain at AI the Booster Club would have to agree to pay the student's future tuition.

Thus, the evidence demonstrates quite clearly that both Coach Goncharoff and Assistant Coach Richard Brown encouraged this player to attend AI. Joe Razore, the Vice President of the Booster Club, then ensured that the Booster Club would pay a significant portion of the player's tuition. Jennifer Vice was well aware of this arrangement and BSD's claim that the payment was "inadvertent" is contrary to the facts.

BSD apparently admits that at least five other players either paid no tuition at AI or received substantial financial assistance. BSD does not address the source of funds for this financial assistance. Nor does Ms. Vice explain the source of the funds she used to provide financial assistance to these players. Ms. Vice has previously admitted that the Booster Club was the only entity which had donated money to AI. Thus, it logically follows that Booster Club funds were used to provide some or all of the financial assistance to these five players.

An October 28, 2013, e-mail exchange between Jennifer Vice and Joe Razore is further evidence of the Booster Club's role in paying tuition for BHS football players. In that e-mail Ms. Vice asks Mr. Razore, whether he wanted to meet with an AI student who presumably was a BHS football player "to review his grade? Let me know if you or Jeff [Razore] are interested. Otherwise, I will just email you his grades." (Exhibit 96). This e-mail is significant because Joe Razore has been the vice-president of the Booster Club since 2008. There is no legitimate educational reason as to why Ms. Vice should be providing Mr. Razore with the grades of an AI student. The only plausible reason Ms. Vice is agreeing to share this information is because the Booster Club is paying this player's tuition and the Club wants to be kept abreast of the player's progress. The Booster Club's role is further demonstrated by the fact that Mr. Razore tells Ms. Vice that "I try and stay in the background but love to see the progress." (Exhibit 96).

Ms. Vice admits that she sent this e-mail to Joe Razore. She told BSD that when she sent the e-mail "it was her impression that Joe Razore was still a coach and she didn't realize he had stopped coaching." This explanation is dubious. Joe Razore has been the vice-president of the Booster Club since 2008 and the WIAA has no information that he acted as a coach between 2008 and the present. We assume that Ms. Vice was aware that Mr. Razore was also an officer of the Booster Club at the time she sent her October 28 e-mail.