

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Carl Blackstone  
Robert Westinghouse

**DATE:** May 25, 2016

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

In the final analysis there is plenty of evidence to support the finding that the Booster Club knowingly and willfully paid some or all of the tuition for BHS football players at AI. There is no dispute that the Booster Club made significant financial donations to AI and there is no dispute that AI used some or all of this money to provide financial assistance to BHS football players. The Booster Club's claim that these donations were available to all students is undermined by the fact that (1) the Booster Club's stated mission at least until November 15, 2015 was to support the BHS football team; (2) the Booster Club did not specify this purpose for the donations made in 2012 and 2013, and (3) the Booster Club failed to report a \$7500 donation to AI on its 2013 return, although required to do so. Neither the WIAA or BSD was able to uncover the full extent of these payments because the Booster Club and AI failed to fully cooperate with either investigation.

### **Allegation #3 – Whether athletes used false addresses to gain eligibility**

**WIAA Rule 3.3.0** provides that "All member school districts of the Association must comply with the rules as stipulated in the Constitution and Rule and Regulations of the Association for interscholastic programs."

**WIAA Rule 3.3.2** provides that "Each Member school has a responsibility to educate its student athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on state association rules, regulations, and policies that could affect them. Further, the member school should monitor its compliance with such state association information."

The WIAA investigators responded to BSD's response to this allegation in their May 18 report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BSD now concedes in its May 23 Violation Report that [REDACTED] provided a false address in violation of WIAA Rules 18.11.2(a) and 28.4.1. As a result BSD now agrees that three players [REDACTED] "provided [BHS] with false information which caused the school to declare the participant eligible in violation of WIAA Rule 18.11.2." WIAA also believes that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] provided false information and that there is a strong reason to question the legitimacy of the address provided by [REDACTED] at the time he enrolled at BHS.

The WIAA Investigative Report contains more than sufficient facts to find that BSD/BHS failed to exercise proper oversight over the BHS football program in violation of WIAA Rules 3.3.0. and 3.3.2. The WIAA investigators highlighted those facts in their May 18 report to KingCo. Although BSD has not addressed most of these facts, BSD in its May 23 Violation Report does take issue with the investigators finding that BSD destroyed records in violation of Washington State Office of the Secretary of State regulation. The irony of such a protest is that