

**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 late January 2016, Jeff Lowell, BSD's athletic director, advised the WIAA investigators that BSD had destroyed all residency information for BHS players who had graduated. The WIAA investigators believed that this violated the regulation requiring that such information be retained for three years. As a result, the investigators sent Mr. Lowell an e-mail on January 22, 2016, (Exhibit 40) requesting that he provide information as to when this policy was implemented, at whose direction and whether it applied only to football players. Mr. Lowell never provided this information and BSD has not provided the information in its May 23 Violation Report. Although Mr. Lowell claimed that BSD had shredded all residency information for players who graduated, BSD admitted in its May 11 Violation Report that it had found residency information for [REDACTED] who had graduated in 2013.

Regardless of the District's efforts to retain or destroy residency records for its graduated BHS football players, the multiple examples of BHS football players using false addresses are well documented, and in at least some instances, now admitted.

#### **Allegation #4 – Whether athletes received subsidized housing to gain eligibility**

The Investigative Report did not find sufficient evidence that players received subsidized housing to gain eligibility. The WIAA Addendum concurs in this finding.

#### **Allegation #5 – Whether coaches coordinated tuition payments for athletes**

**WIAA Rule 27.1.0** provides that no student may receive, or be offered, any remunerations of any kind, or to receive or be offered any special inducement of any kind which is not made available to all applicants who enroll or continue to be enrolled in the school or apply to the school."

**WIAA Rule 27.1(A)(1)** provides that "Special inducement shall include, but not be limited to "the offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition during the regular year or summer school by anyone connected with the school."

**WIAA Rule 27.1(C)** provides that "Member schools shall be responsible for any violation committed by any person associated with the school, including principals, assistant principals, coaches, teachers, any other staff members or students, or any organization having any connection to the school. The member schools shall be responsible for any violation committed by any person acting at the direction of the school."

BSD concludes that "based on a thorough review of all facts, there is not sufficient