

MEMORANDUM

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TO: John Miller
Assistant Executive Director
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Brian Smith
Assistant Executive Director
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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.

evidence to support the allegation of coaches directing tuition payments for players.” This conclusion is contrary to the facts found by the WIAA investigators.

The WIAA Investigative Report found that Coach Goncharoff was involved in finding a sponsor to pay [REDACTED] tuition at AI and that Assistant Coach Jeff Razore either paid for or coordinated the tuition payments for [REDACTED]. These findings were based on the following facts:

- [REDACTED] father told the investigators that Coach Goncharoff told him that [REDACTED] should attend AI. Coach Goncharoff also told Mr. Dyles that he did not have “a sponsor” but Coach Goncharoff directed Mr. Dyles to visit AI and meet with Jennifer Vice.
- After Mr. Dyles met with Jennifer Vice, Coach Goncharoff told Mr. Dyles that he had found a sponsor for [REDACTED]. Shortly thereafter, [REDACTED] began attending AI and paid nothing during the entire time attended AI.
- Mr. Dyles learned that the Razore family had paid [REDACTED] tuition. He and his wife thanked Jeff Razore for paying and for the help and he responded that it was “no problem” and that Mr. Dyles should contact him anytime if there was anything he needed. Ms. Vice also told Mr. Dyles that she would thank the Razores for paying Omar’s tuition.

(WIAA Investigative Report at 47-48).

In response to these facts, BSD states in its May 23 Violation Report that “there is no credible information provided by the fact finders to support a finding that Coach Jeff Razore directed tuition payments.” To the contrary, the information provided by Mr. Dyles coupled with the fact that [REDACTED] paid no tuition at AI, is very credible information. BSD apparently does not challenge the information provided by Mr. Dyles. Instead, they claim that the WIAA investigators mischaracterized a January 2015 meeting between Jeff Razore and [REDACTED]. At that time [REDACTED] was contemplating leaving BHS. Jeff Razore went to AI and after meeting with Jennifer Vice, she asked [REDACTED] to come into her office to meet with Mr. Razore. According to [REDACTED] Mr. Razore told him that if he left BHS “you’ll never get to come back” and “none of this will be here if you want to come back.” Mr. Razore also said “something to the effect” that if he left BHS he would lose his scholarship at the Academic Institute.” (Exhibit 20 at 4). BSD claims that Shawn Flood, a lawyer hired by BSD to investigate this incident “produced a finding in 2015 that there was no means to determine what was said in the meeting.” This is not what Ms. Flood found. In her report she stated that there was: