

MEMORANDUM

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TO: John Miller
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Brian Smith
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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.

The purpose and intent of the rule is to require school board approval for any payments and/or gifts to a coach in excess of \$500 while conducting coaching duties or activities related to each sport he/she coached for that school. These services include the year-round activities that coaches, may do in order to provide a safe, competitive, and enriching experience for the student-athletes of the high school and its feeder schools within the school district. Any payment or gift given to a coach in excess of \$500 at *any time of the year* for that sport must be approved by the school board of directors.

As requested by the Bellevue School District in 2006, the rule was developed to give the school districts the authority to control any payments or gifts provided to coaches who coach in the school programs. The WIAA Representative Assembly approved the amendment in April 2007 and the rule went into effect on August 1, 2007. *Rule 23.1.1 has been written, consistently interpreted and, intended as a year round control system* to support schools and insure that all programs are under the direct guidance and oversight of school administration. Rule 23.1.1 provides member schools a tool to safeguard against unauthorized compensation of coaches and in return creates a level playing field for all school athletic programs. (Italics added.)

BSD agrees with this allegation that there is evidence to support a finding of a violation of WIAA Rule 23.1.1 because “compensation paid to Coach Goncharoff in excess of \$500 for work associated with the camp at Ft. Worden – a camp directly related to the sport that he coaches at BHS” – was not approved by the school board.

BSD’s admission is much narrower than the facts warrant:

- Between 2002 and 2012, the Bellevue Wolverine Booster Club’s tax returns report \$588,568 was paid to coaches. These payments were not approved by the Bellevue School District Board. (Investigative Report at 57-58).
- Between 2008 and 2012, these tax returns report \$312,059 was paid to coaches. These payments were not approved by the Bellevue School District Board. (Investigative Report at 57-58).
- These tax returns report these payments as “Coaches stipends.” (Exhibit 15). The obvious meaning of this phrase is “payment for coaching.” If, as the District, Coach Goncharoff, and the Booster Club now maintain, these payments were actually for services other than as a high school football coach, it calls into question the accuracy of these tax returns.
- According to the BSD May 23 Violation Report to the KingCo Conference, Coach Goncharoff acknowledged that before the 2007 rule change, he was paid “in season.” Since 2007, he is compensated “for work done outside of the season for things like, public speaking engagements, work with NIKE, Jubilee Reach, Junior Camp, and (sic) variety of other camps and organizations. He re-emphasized that he did not get