
 YARMUTH WILSDON PLLC

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
RE: BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL PROGRAM**

**Carl
Blackstone**

**Robert
Westinghouse**

Jennifer Vice has told us that six players who attended the Academic Institute received “scholarships.” (Exhibit 110 at page 2). Ms. Vice declined to identify these players and declined to provide any information as to the amount of the scholarship received by each player. She did represent, however, that “Generally, the Academic Institute requires that parents [whose children are receiving scholarships to] make minimum monthly payments of \$500.” (Exhibit 111 at page 15). This is somewhat inconsistent with the fact that one player’s family paid only \$150 a month, another paid \$450 a month and at least two, and possibly more players, paid no tuition at all.

Ms. Vice further claimed that the Booster Club did not pay the tuition of any specific players. We do not find this claim credible in light of the fact that Ms. Vice sent an e-mail to the father of a former player who attended the Academic Institute indicating that “the booster club has to agree” to pay his son’s tuition. (Exhibit 104).

Although Ms. Vice claimed that the Booster Club did not pay for any player’s tuition, she did admit that the Booster Club had made financial donations to the Academic Institute. She said that the Booster Club was the only outside entity to make donations to the Academic Institute and that all of the donations were placed in the general funds and used to subsidize tuition for all students, including BHS football players. Ms. Vice stated that the Academic Institute received donations from the Booster Club for four years between 2012 and 2015. (Exhibit 111 at 16-17). Ms. Vice provided us with letters from the Booster Club reflecting donations of \$15,000 in 2014 and \$10,000 in 2015.⁶³ (Letters attached as Exhibits 112, 113 and 114). Two of these letters state in part that “this contribution is to be used by your institution to assist with education support for any student, male, female, athlete or non-athlete, at your discretion, based on their financial need and in accordance with your policies.” (Exhibits 112 and 113). Ms. Vice was unable to provide any similar letters or documents memorializing donations made by the Booster Club in the years 2012 and 2013. Ms. Vice advised us that the Booster Club donated \$2,100 in 2012 and \$7,200 in 2013. (Exhibit 110 at page 3). However, her inability to produce any documents such as bank records confirming these donations prevents us from confirming the total amount of funds donated by the Booster Club in those years. Ms. Vice also denied that any parent of a student at the Academic Institute had made any donations to the school. Finally, she denied that Jeff Razore had donated any money to the school or paid for any student athletes’ tuition.

We are at a loss to reconcile this information regarding the finances of the Academic Institute with the financial assistance that was apparently provided to a number of players. If we assume that only four of the seven players referenced above received financial assistance during an academic year – two players (██████████ and ██████████) receiving full tuition assistance of \$1,750 per month; a third former player receiving tuition assistance of \$1,600 per month ($\$1,750 - \$150 = \$1,600$ per month); and the fourth (██████████) receiving tuition of \$1,300 per month ($\$1,750 - \$450 = \$1,300$ per month) – the total amount of financial aid being given to just these four players was \$6,400 per month or \$57,600 per nine month academic year. This assumption, however, is inconsistent with Ms. Vice’s assurance that football players were not given preference in financial assistance awards. Thus, the total amount of financial assistance greatly exceeds the amount of financial support Ms. Vice has acknowledged receiving.

⁶³ According to the Booster Club’s 2014 tax return, the donation to the Academic Institute was \$9,800. (Exhibit 15).