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 YARMUTH WILSDON PLLC

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

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**Carl  
Blackstone**

**Robert  
Westinghouse**

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## B. Payments to support Fort Worden Football Camp

The Booster Club reported spending \$556,821 between 2008 and 2014 in support of a five-day football camp at Fort Worden. (Exhibit 15). Because the Booster Club refused to provide us with any records we do not know how these funds were spent, whether any of these funds were paid to Coach Goncharoff or any of the assistant coaches.<sup>74</sup> It is worth noting, however, that the Fort Worden expenses reported by the Booster Club ranged from \$11,243 in 2002 to \$21,862 in 2007. (Exhibit 15). Then, in 2008, the year after WIAA adopted a rule requiring School Board approval of payments to coaches exceeding \$500, the Booster Club reported on its tax return that it had incurred \$80,989 in “Camp Worden expenses.” (Exhibit 15). We find it hard to believe that the expenses associated with the five-day Fort Worden summer camp increased by almost 400% between 2007 and 2008.<sup>75</sup> Thus, a logical inference from this dramatic increase in “expenses” is that all, or a portion of the approximately \$60,000 in increased “expenses” was funneled to one or more of the BHS football coaches. We are unable to resolve this matter definitively because the Booster Club has refused to provide us with any records relating to the Club’s expenditures and Coach Goncharoff has refused to answer any questions regarding payments he received from the Booster Club or others connected with the Booster Club.

Apart from the payment of coaches issue, it is reasonable to question the appropriateness of expenditures by the Booster Club averaging almost \$80,000 per year (2008 to 2014) for a five-day summer camp. We question whether any other high school football program in the State receives such financial support and, if not, whether such expenditures constitute intolerable inequities in high school football. This may be an appropriate subject for further consideration by WIAA’s Board of Directors. It also speaks loudly of the need for stronger oversight and direction by BHS administrators of the Booster Club’s expenditures.

Finally, we have also heard that the Booster Club and others have provided Coach Goncharoff with cars, assisted him in purchasing his home in Medina, and has funded his business.<sup>76</sup> None of this information has been confirmed.

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<sup>74</sup> We strongly recommend that the District request this financial information from the Booster Club to determine whether the Booster Club is complying with WIAA regulations. If the Booster Club refuses to provide the District with this information, the District should consider severing all ties with the Booster Club.

<sup>75</sup> For the years 2009 through 2014, the Booster Club reported the following expenses associated with the Fort Worden camp:

2009 - \$79,212  
2010 - \$82,891  
2011 - \$69,264  
2012 - \$78,631  
2013 - \$85,194  
2014 - \$80,640

(Exhibit 15).

<sup>76</sup> During our investigation we discovered that Coach Goncharoff and a member of the Booster Club Board, Craig Gilbert, were listed as being affiliated with a company called VVG Enterprises, LLC. (Exhibit 122). Coach Goncharoff refused to answer any questions about this company.