
From: Lowell, Jeff (Jeffrey R)
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 5:18 PM
To: John Olson; John Miller; Harrison, John R
Subject: Summary of today's meeting

John, John, and John:

Thank you for meeting today to discuss the current WIAA fact-finding investigation into allegations made against the Bellevue High football program in the Seattle Times article on August 22 (Bellevue High's football success aided by 'diploma mill'). We appreciate your willingness to meet to discuss the fact-finding and its scope.

The four of us (John Harrison, John Miller, John Olson, and Jeff Lowell) met this afternoon at the Bellevue School District offices with a goal of clarifying the charge given to the investigators and the articles the guide all fact-finding investigations conducted by the WIAA.

John Harrison began the meeting with a short explanation of why the meeting was called. After four initial interviews were conducted (with John Harrison, Jeff Lowell, Scott Powers, and Lauren McDaniel) there were questions that arose regarding the some of the documentation requested. Also at issue was the feeling that Scott Powers and Lauren McDaniel had that they should have our general counsel present when being questioned, due to the nature of some lines of questioning.

John Harrison asked for clarification regarding what charge that Carl Blackstone and Bob Westinghouse were provided as they began their investigation. John Miller and Jeff Lowell compared their lists from the initial meeting from August 28, 2015. On both lists were:

1. Investigating whether coaches directed athletes to attend the Academic Institute
2. Investigating whether boosters had paid for tuition of athletes at Academic Institute
3. Investigating whether athletes used false addresses to gain eligibility
4. Investigating whether athletes received subsidized housing to gain eligibility
5. Investigating whether coaches are coordinating tuition payments for athletes

John Miller also had the following two items on his list:

1. **Investigating any connection between AAU basketball and the Bellevue Football program.** It is the position of the school district that this has no bearing on the current investigation. The investigation into allegations between AAU and the Bellevue Football program was dealt with in 2011.
2. **Out-of-Season conditioning.** This item was discussed in context with sanctions which were applied by the KingCo League back on June 2, 2015. It is the position of the school district that the out-of-season violations which were uncovered during our investigation into a HIB complaint were resolved through the self-report process in June.

John Miller shared some additional information regarding the fact-finding process.

- As the Bellevue School District requested the investigation, the report as prepared will come to the school district for review.
- The report will list any facts which bear a violation, any facts which raise question of violation, and any facts which lead to a dismissal of allegations.
- The goal of the report is to determine whether there is a 'level playing field' as the rules in question help provide that level playing field for all participants.
- Once facts are determined – ensuring that there is a level playing field is the only goal.

- Once the report is received by the Bellevue School District, the district has time to respond to the findings. Responses may include:
 - Acceptance of facts as presented – whether dismissing allegations or bearing out violations
 - Gathering additional information regarding facts – as a means to determine appropriate reaction to what is presented
 - A report will then need to be given to the KingCo conference either as a self-report, or to provide information regarding the dismissal of allegations...or both.

The remainder of the discussion centered on the questioning that seemed to take the investigation away from the scope outlined above. Items requested included information about:

- A former volunteer who has not been part of the program for approximately four years
- Athletes on teams other than football, including track, soccer, basketball, and other programs that were deemed good
- Information regarding the districts HIB investigation
- All student Optional Learning requests for the district going back to 2008
- Access to the student information system

The four participants agreed that an additional meeting to include Carl Blackstone and Bob Westinghouse would be beneficial. That meeting has since been set for Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 2:30pm at the Bellevue Educational Services Center.

The meeting ended with the four participants agreeing that being expedient with clarification regarding the scope of the investigation benefits the Bellevue School District, Bellevue High School, Bellevue football, and the WIAA.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lowell

District Activities and Athletics Director

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