



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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matter of continuing importance; thus the subject is not necessarily closed. Should any additional information come to our attention we would want to follow-up as quickly and thoroughly as possible.” (Exhibit 27). Since 2006, the District has received additional information, which for the most part has not been thoroughly investigated.

Given this history and the continuing claims that BHS illegally recruits players, we concluded that it was important to investigate this matter. Our efforts to investigate this issue, however, had been thwarted by the District’s insistence that our investigation should be limited to investigating only matters relating to residency and the Academic Institute. Furthermore, our investigative efforts were undermined by the fact that Coach Goncharoff, Jeff Razore, Tracy Ford, John Connors, and a number of football players have either refused to talk to us, attached unacceptable conditions to their willingness to be interviewed; or, in the case of Coach Goncharoff refused to answer any questions relating to recruitment.<sup>82</sup>

Despite these obstacles, we have uncovered some additional evidence regarding recruitment which merits additional investigation by the District.

1. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Although the District conducted a somewhat perfunctory investigation and concluded that these four players from the Tacoma area had not been recruited, (Exhibit 30), our report at pages 19 to 20 above, has identified new information which warrants further investigation by the District.

2. [REDACTED]

We also believe that the circumstances surrounding [REDACTED]’s transfer to BHS certainly warrant further investigation. [REDACTED] played football and ran track at Federal Way High School. During the summer after his sophomore year, [REDACTED] appeared at Ford Performance Sports, a business operated by Tracy Ford who had previously played football at BHS and was at the time the strength and conditioning coach for BHS.<sup>83</sup> After working out at the facility, Mr. Ford’s assistant, Marisa Spooner Le-Duff asked [REDACTED] if he wanted to join the gym. [REDACTED] apparently told Ms. Spooner Le-Duff that he was homeless and destitute. Shortly, thereafter, Ms. Spooner Le-Duff agreed to take [REDACTED] and his family in to live in her Bellevue apartment. She then became [REDACTED]’s legal guardian and he subsequently enrolled in BHS and became a star member of the BHS football team.

Ms. Spooner Le-Duff has denied that [REDACTED] was recruited to play football at BHS. She claims that she was motivated only by compassion in becoming [REDACTED]’s guardian and

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<sup>82</sup> Although Coach Goncharoff refused to discuss recruitment with us, he apparently had no reservations telling the *Seattle Times* that he had “never” recruited any player to play football at BHS. (Exhibit 31).

<sup>83</sup> We have heard from several witnesses that Tracy Ford was involved in recruiting players to BHS, through his gym, which was funded in part by John Connors, the President of the Booster Club. Mr. Connors admitted that he “personally partnered with Tracy Ford on Ford Sports Performance.” (Exhibit 17). On January 26, 2015, Jeff Lowell notified Mr. Ford that he was prohibited from having any access to District property based upon several concerns, including illegal recruitment of football players. (Exhibit 123). Mr. Ford declined our request for an interview.