

Bellevue High School Football Program

WIAA Investigation Examination

*Prepared by Bellevue Wolverines Football Club, in collaboration with
concerned community members and families*

WIAA Report Examination

- This deck serves to present factual information that rebuts the WIAA's investigation into the Bellevue High School football program.
- The WIAA's report and the investigators who compiled it show profound bias and, in many cases, distort the truth to arrive at far-reaching and incorrect conclusions.
- The following slides highlight issues with the report and investigators' conduct, and illustrates BHS and other schools' compliance with WIAA rules and regulations.

WIAA Report – issues

It is not the responsibility of BHS coaches to monitor players' addresses.

- **No** WIAA rule requires coaches to investigate the validity of players' addresses. That responsibility lies appropriately with the district. Yet, the report misplaces blame and assumes BHS football coaches be held accountable for address verification
- **No** Bellevue School District Coach employed to coach men's or women's sports have been instructed to, or are required to validate addresses
- It is in the best interest of the district, high school administration and coaches that District Officials remain responsible for student admittance and eligibility
- Why would the WIAA assume it is football coaches responsibility to verify addresses, if a student was enrolled and deemed eligible in a varsity sport prior to playing varsity football
- The WIAA *itself* previously cleared players who these investigators cite as using a false address
- A student **is not** a transfer into BHS, if they have attended middle school within BSD boundary or enrolled prior to grade 9

WIAA Report – issues

All BHS coaches have been compensated within the WIAA's rules.

- The report acknowledges payments to coaches to be “**technically correct**” under the WIAA’s rules, yet it goes out of its way to show cumulative payments over a 10-year span to make the report appear more inflammatory.
- The investigators deliberately distort the WIAA rule regarding coaches’ payments. The rule states: “Coaching stipends and all gifts to a coach exceeding a total of \$500 ***in a season*** must be approved by the school’s board of directors.”
- The report **omits** this important “in a season” distinction covered by WIAA Rule 23.1.1, which allows payments to be made to coaches outside of the season, and for duties other than high school coaching. **Why?**
- Indeed, the scope of Coach Goncharoff’s additional responsibilities fall far outside the football season, and encompass a wide range of youth programs, camps, player mentorship and other laudable activities
- BHS Athletic Directors current and present have approved and or have known about coaches paid for summer camp instruction

WIAA Report – Issues

The Fort Worden annual summer football camp is not a “special inducement” for players, and thus does not violate WIAA Rule 27.1.0(A)(1).

- The Fort Worden camp has long been offered to football players as a joint effort of Bellevue High School and BWFC. The report suggests that other schools **do not have** team camps, which is patently wrong – many, many schools have team camps organized, funded and sponsored by booster clubs, with funds made available for students in need (see notes)
- The camp is coordinated and managed in partnership with Bellevue High School, which takes responsibility for reviewing and approving scholarships for all participants
- Fort Worden Football Camp began in 1987 by then coach Dwaine Hatch and has been known by WA State and KingCo Conference Coaches. Seattle Times authored a glowing article about Fort Worden Camp in 2004
- Many KingCo Conference Football Program offers scholarships or financial subsidies to students attending their Summer Camps, including but not limited to Mt. Si, Eastlake and Mercer Island.

WIAA Report – Issues

The Bellevue Wolverines Football Club funded scholarships available to ALL Academic Institute students – The club had no discretion over the awards to multiple recipients. No coach ever paid The Academic Institute.

BWFC is very proud of the help kids received furthering their education

- It is undisputed that the BWFC has long supported The Academic Institute among its wide range of charitable causes, with unrestricted contributions. Its history of this support has been well documented following the rules and guidelines for nonprofits
- The report weakly insinuates that an email from The Academic Institute executive director Jennifer Vice, in which she confirms relying on support from BWFC contributions to help fund one student's scholarship, proves a WIAA violation, but this is yet another example of the investigators' reliance on inferences over evidence. It is hardly surprising that The Academic Institute chose to allocate some of the grant money it receives from BWFC to offset the tuition of student-athletes, and this violates no WIAA rule
- **Many KingCo schools work closely with alternate schools including, but not limited to Mercer Island and Bothell, whereby students are offered more individual attention, grade replacement, scholarships and even bus service between schools**

WIAA Report – Issues

Directing students to attend The Academic Institute is not a WIAA rule violation.

- The investigators have gone on the record to state that directing students to attend The Academic Institute **does not** constitute a WIAA rule violation. Instead, they take issue with students' grades improving at AI.
- What is most outrageous and insulting about this is the investigators' conclusion that these students can't learn and improve in the right setting. Who are they to say these kids can't get their grades up?
- The citations used by the investigators in this portion of the report have nothing to do with a coach's role in helping student-athletes achieve academic success.
- Effective coaches take interest in their student-athletes' performance on and off the field, and it is not outside the scope of a coach's role to counsel a player on improving his or her grades.

Facts or Inferences?

The WIAA report states much of what has been asserted is based on **inference** rather than direct evidence.

Examples:

- Reliance on anonymous sources and hearsay
- Misrepresentation of WIAA rules throughout the report
- Multiple examples of including damning information, without questioning the individual it accuses

Investigator Misconduct

BSD HIB Grievances - The Families' Story

Numerous Bellevue families have gone on record to express concern, frustration and outrage with the investigators and their tactics.

- **Six families filed formal HIB Grievances with BSD** - as outlined in BSD Procedure 3207P
- Investigations are to be completed no later than 5 days from initial complaint – per BSD policy
- Most grievances are in week 7 or beyond 50 days
- Weekly updates are being provided
- **Two families have filed formal complaints with the Department of Justice (DOJ)**
- **Eight School board meetings were attended by families prior to and during the period HIB complaints were occurring and being filed**
- **BSD sent letter to all families communicating interrogations would be limited to a defined scope as a precondition for the interrogation per an agreement with WIAA**
- **It was later learned the scope agreement was never in place between BSD and WIAA – families agreed to be interrogated under false pretense**
- **A WIAA investigator was removed from the investigation for abusive conduct**
- **WIAA handbook outlines investigator conduct as an important part of the fact finding process**

WIAA Confusion Leads to Flawed Investigation

Rules on Booster Clubs Nonexistent

- WIAA Board was discussing roles & activities permissible for booster clubs as Bellevue investigation was being conducted
- How could the WIAA ask investigators to look under “*rocks, rocks, rocks*” when they are confused on their own rules?
- In their zeal to find violations, the investigators ignored the WIAA rules (appendix 11) designed to ensure a fair fact-finding process: they acted as advocates and prosecutors, not investigators
- Why did the WIAA repeatedly fail to respond to the BSD requirements for investigation scope, and the indecent and unethical conduct of its investigators
- It is obvious the WIAA and its investigators know little or nothing about the youth support organizations across the State
- BWFC cooperated in the investigation on every single point BSD requested; no one is obligated to respond to broad reaching anonymous allegations
- WIAA Investigators were given specific and pertinent responses which were all ignored
- If this was a court of Law, this entire investigation and its findings would be dismissed

HANDBOOK SUB-COMMITTEE

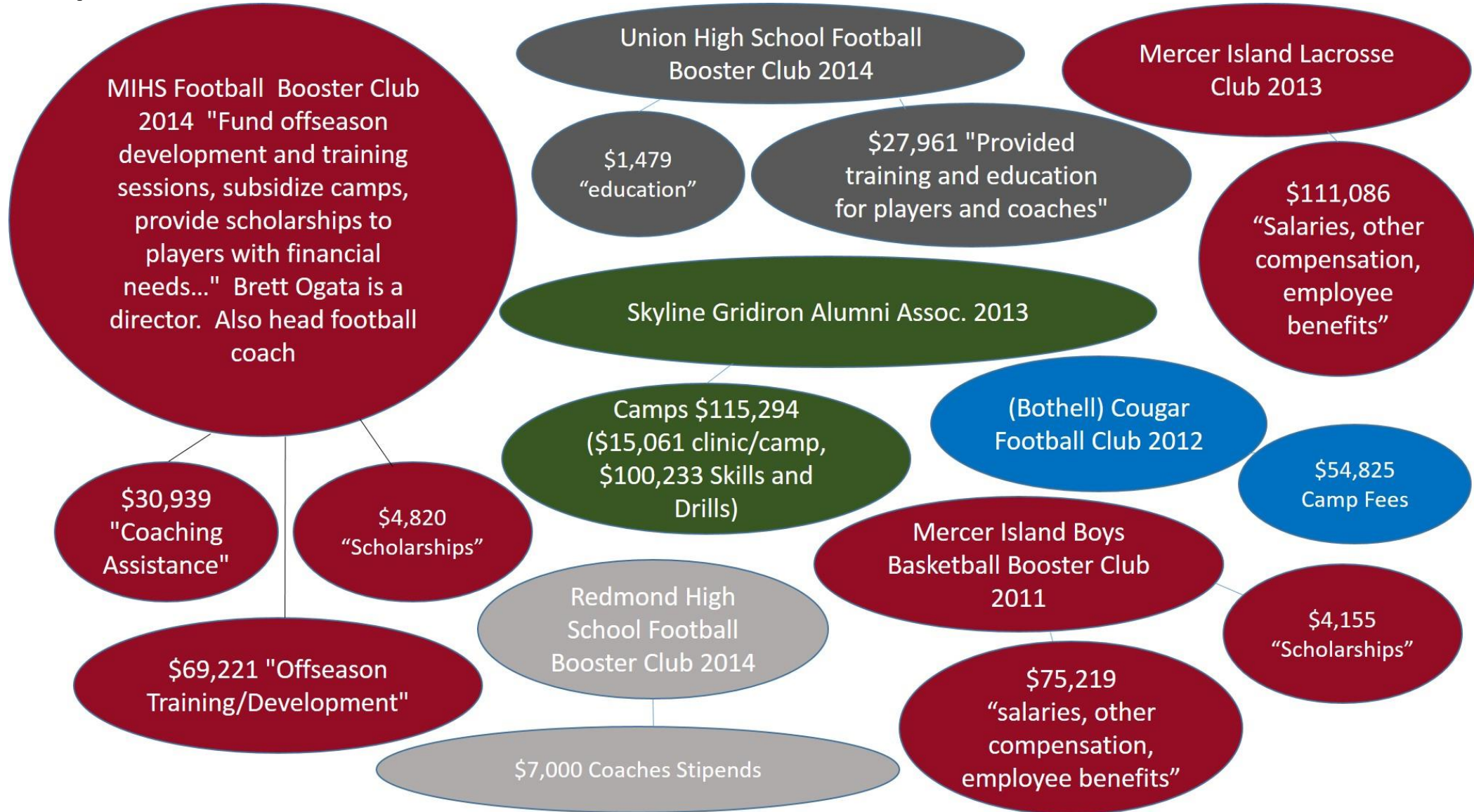
Ken Lindgren reported that the subcommittee reviewed a number of issues.

1. A review of WIAA handbook rule 4.7.0, combined programs, was tabled until more information could be gathered from WIAA staff member Alli Krous since she oversees the billing to schools based upon program offerings.
2. Graduates and participation limits: current WIAA handbook rules do not prohibit a student from due process in appealing to participate after graduation, even though there is an assumption otherwise. Staff was directed to review comparable rules in other states and determine if an editorial change or an amendment is in order to change the rule.
3. A number of questions were raised about the involvement and actions of school booster clubs. Can a high school booster club raise money and then sponsor/promote/organize out-of-season practices and/or contests? Is a booster club considered to be an agent of a school? If a booster club falls under the auspices of the school, is liability insurance provided?

Staff was directed to determine the level of involvement, accountability and legal ramifications of booster clubs with the schools. Marty Fortin has been invited to the December Executive Board meeting.

4. Clarification of WIAA handbook rule 28.3.1, which is the outlined process for appealing a forfeit due to an ineligible participant. The appeal would be filed with the league first.
- Kredit/Whitmore moved to approve changing “district” to “league.” MOTION PASSED.

Other Schools Operate Just Like Bellevue in Compliance with WIAA Rules



Alternate Schools

Many high schools coordinate with alternate schools to help students succeed. For example:

Mercer Island High School - Privett Academy / Yellow Wood Academy

- Mercer Island Athletes attending
- Bus Service between MIHS and Privett Academy
- Scholarships offered
- Grade Replacement

Per Yellow Wood Academy website:

- *ADHD diagnosed, athletes, performers and others with demanding schedules...*
- *Through these scholarships, the school achieves dual goals of greater diversity within the school and increased accessibility for the entire community.*

Alternate Schools

Bothell and Woodinville High Schools – Northwest Liberty School

- Athletes attending
- Scholarships available
- Grade replacement
- Partnership with PTSA – Bothell

Per Northwest Liberty School website:

- *Thank you for making the Northwest Liberty School available for (my son) so he could take advantage of additional classes at Woodinville High School. – P.A., Parent 2012-13*
- ***Students who need to improve their GPA: Example:*** Dalton has the potential to play collegiate basketball but does not have the GPA to get in college. He has decided to retake his lowest grade courses to increase his GPA and “replace” the previous grades.
- ***Solution:*** “When the student is ready, a teacher will appear.” NWLS is agile and able to respond quickly to needs. We offers both “Credit Recovery” and “Grade Replacement” options for any student who has taken a course previously and didn’t pass or would like an opportunity to improve their grade and GPA. NWLS also offers open enrollment, so students can begin at any time of the year.

Summer Camps / Offseason Booster Support

Booster led off-season programs

- Mercer Island High School – Offseason football-specific training

Subsidies and administrative support for off-season player development, including Steve Gervais Passing Academy and Kevin Chiles Speed & Strength Training programs. Gervais no doubt has had some degree of influence over Mercer Island's football program, both on the field and off. "There's intense coaching. Brett Ogata, HC, Director of Booster Club

- Bothell High School - defined workout times

5:30AM in the BHS Gym 3:15 Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday

- Skyline – gym limited to football players only with reduced payments

Because of the types of workouts conducted, only football athletes can participate. We are only able to offer this program at the same low annual rate year after year because of participation levels. Individual programs such as this cost hundreds of dollars a month.

- Tahoma – **College** scholarship offered
- Eastlake - Scholarship offered for football related expenses / apply by April 30
- Mt Si - Pre-season training events that earn redeemable points
- Lake Washington – Football booster club funds for football only, including camps and conditioning

Funding and Compensation - KingCo Programs Compared

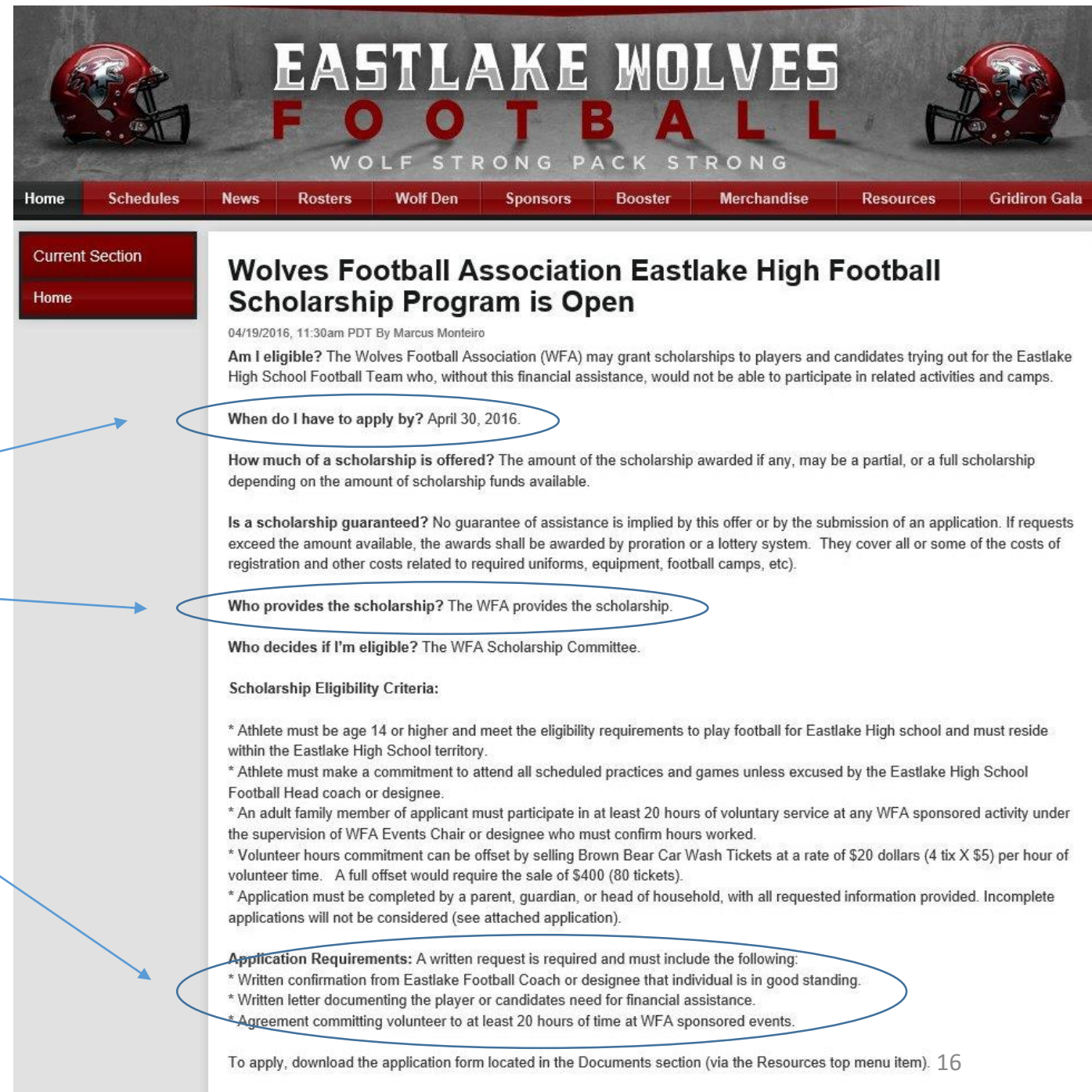
Comparing booster club publicly available IRS Form 990 demonstrates typical spending for Puget Sound area clubs. Bellevue Wolverines Football Club falls right in line with comparable clubs.

Bellevue Wolverines Football Club (BWFC)						
KingCo Clubs School Summary						
Data from 990 Filings						
	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013
	BWFC	MI Football Club	Skyline Football Club	MI Basketball Club	MI Lacrosse Club	MI Band Club
Total Revenue	\$ 466,073	\$ 213,086	\$ 192,407	\$ 209,956	\$ 246,685	\$ 82,584
Less Fundraising Cost	\$ 179,290	\$ 71,152	\$ 54,481	\$ 46,614	\$ 20,184	\$ 42,842
Revenue Net of Fundraising	\$ 286,783	\$ 141,934	\$ 137,926	\$ 163,342	\$ 226,501	\$ 39,742
Revenue Net of Fundraising	\$ 286,783	\$ 141,934	\$ 137,926	\$ 163,342	\$ 226,501	\$ 39,742
Less BWFC Community Outreach & Development	\$ 142,137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Funds Raised Available for Annual Sport	\$ 144,646	\$ 141,934	\$ 137,926	\$ 163,342	\$ 226,501	\$ 39,742
Major Expenditures by Club						
Camps / League Dues / Tournaments	\$ 80,640	\$ 35,024	\$ -	\$ 68,397	\$ 62,066	\$ -
Skyline Skills & Drills	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,233	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Skyline Clinics	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,061	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2014 Football Competition & Honor Bowl (\$103,637) (1)	\$ 118,369	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Offseason Training & Development	\$ -	\$ 69,221	\$ -	\$ 1,019	\$ -	\$ -
MI Saturday Morning Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,652	\$ -	\$ -
MI Coaching Assistance / Salaries	\$ -	\$ 30,939	\$ -	\$ 62,450	\$ 111,086	\$ 11,094
MI Team Travel / Tourney	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,595	\$ -
Annual Banquet/Awards/Dinners & Recognition Events	\$ 19,178	\$ 12,711	\$ 8,739	\$ 12,711	\$ 5,050	\$ -
Equipment (BWFC helmets, shoulder pads, pads, travel bags)	\$ 35,218	\$ -	\$ 8,298	\$ 4,886	\$ 17,184	\$ -
MI Fees for Music Competitions & Travel/Fees for Parades	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,162
MI Gym Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,227	\$ -	\$ -
(1.) BWFC funded travel for 190 BHS students football, band, cheer, coaches, BSD Admin, BHS staff						

Eastlake Boosters Scholarship Program

as of spring 2016

Are these Violations too..?



The screenshot shows the website for the Eastlake Wolves Football Association. The header features two red football helmets flanking the text "EASTLAKE WOLVES FOOTBALL" in large, bold letters, with "WOLF STRONG PACK STRONG" underneath. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Schedules, News, Rosters, Wolf Den, Sponsors, Booster, Merchandise, Resources, and Gridiron Gala. A sidebar on the left has a "Current Section" dropdown menu with "Home" selected. The main content area has a title "Wolves Football Association Eastlake High Football Scholarship Program is Open" and a date "04/19/2016, 11:30am PDT By Marcus Monteiro". The text describes the scholarship program, including eligibility criteria, application requirements, and contact information. Several key sections are circled in blue: "When do I have to apply by?", "Who provides the scholarship?", "Who decides if I'm eligible?", "Application Requirements:", and the list of requirements.

Wolves Football Association Eastlake High Football Scholarship Program is Open
04/19/2016, 11:30am PDT By Marcus Monteiro

Am I eligible? The Wolves Football Association (WFA) may grant scholarships to players and candidates trying out for the Eastlake High School Football Team who, without this financial assistance, would not be able to participate in related activities and camps.

When do I have to apply by? April 30, 2016.

How much of a scholarship is offered? The amount of the scholarship awarded if any, may be a partial, or a full scholarship depending on the amount of scholarship funds available.

Is a scholarship guaranteed? No guarantee of assistance is implied by this offer or by the submission of an application. If requests exceed the amount available, the awards shall be awarded by proration or a lottery system. They cover all or some of the costs of registration and other costs related to required uniforms, equipment, football camps, etc).

Who provides the scholarship? The WFA provides the scholarship.

Who decides if I'm eligible? The WFA Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:

- * Athlete must be age 14 or higher and meet the eligibility requirements to play football for Eastlake High school and must reside within the Eastlake High School territory.
- * Athlete must make a commitment to attend all scheduled practices and games unless excused by the Eastlake High School Football Head coach or designee.
- * An adult family member of applicant must participate in at least 20 hours of voluntary service at any WFA sponsored activity under the supervision of WFA Events Chair or designee who must confirm hours worked.
- * Volunteer hours commitment can be offset by selling Brown Bear Car Wash Tickets at a rate of \$20 dollars (4 tix X \$5) per hour of volunteer time. A full offset would require the sale of \$400 (80 tickets).
- * Application must be completed by a parent, guardian, or head of household, with all requested information provided. Incomplete applications will not be considered (see attached application).

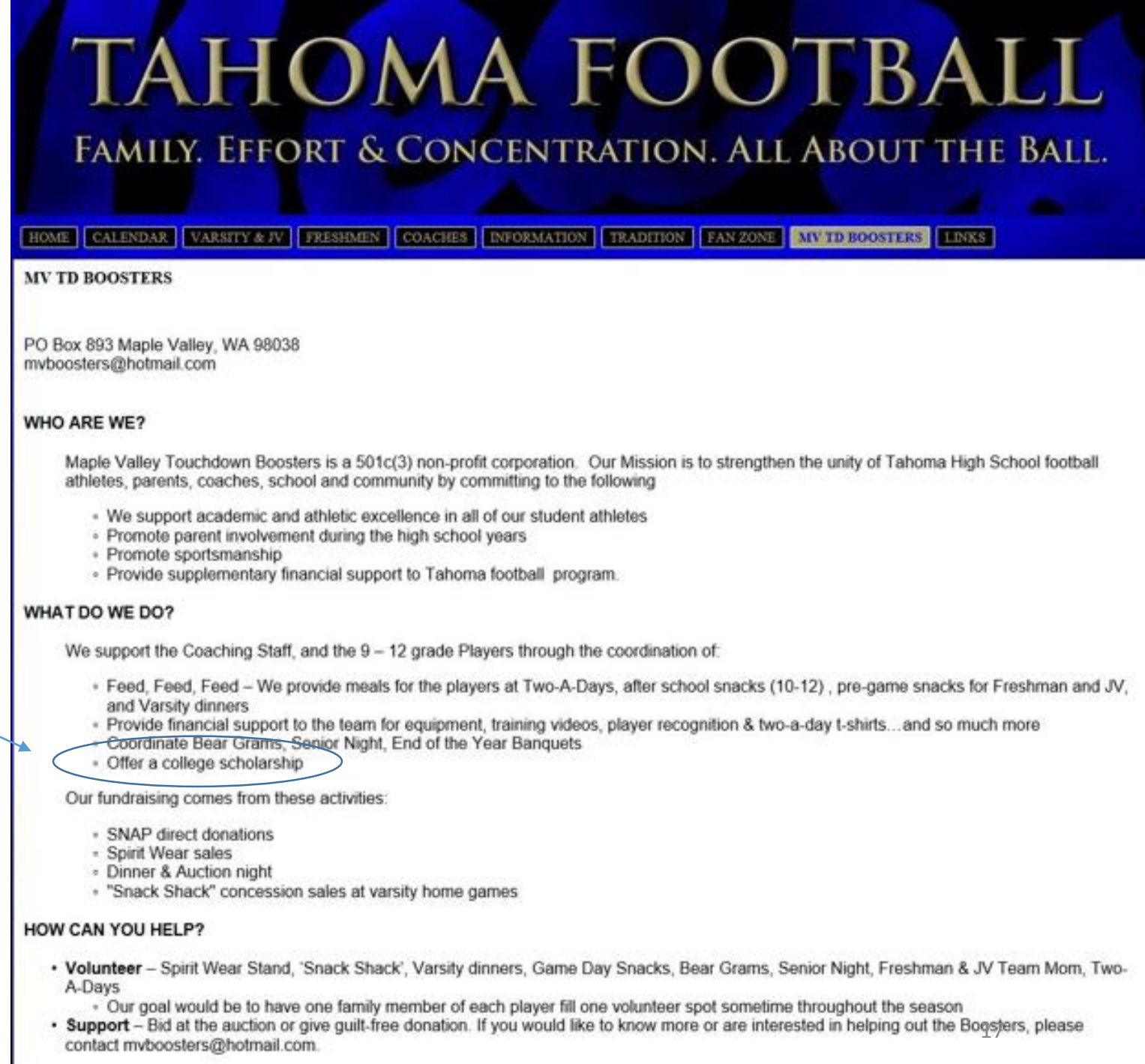
Application Requirements: A written request is required and must include the following:

- * Written confirmation from Eastlake Football Coach or designee that individual is in good standing.
- * Written letter documenting the player or candidates need for financial assistance.
- * Agreement committing volunteer to at least 20 hours of time at WFA sponsored events.

To apply, download the application form located in the Documents section (via the Resources top menu item). 16

Tahoma Boosters – college scholarship as of Spring 2016

Is this a Violation too..?



TAHOMA FOOTBALL
FAMILY. EFFORT & CONCENTRATION. ALL ABOUT THE BALL.

HOME CALENDAR VARSITY & JV FRESHMEN COACHES INFORMATION TRADITION FAN ZONE **MV TD BOOSTERS** LINKS

MV TD BOOSTERS

PO Box 893 Maple Valley, WA 98038
mvboosters@hotmail.com

WHO ARE WE?

Maple Valley Touchdown Boosters is a 501c(3) non-profit corporation. Our Mission is to strengthen the unity of Tahoma High School football athletes, parents, coaches, school and community by committing to the following

- We support academic and athletic excellence in all of our student athletes
- Promote parent involvement during the high school years
- Promote sportsmanship
- Provide supplementary financial support to Tahoma football program.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We support the Coaching Staff, and the 9 – 12 grade Players through the coordination of:

- Feed, Feed, Feed – We provide meals for the players at Two-A-Days, after school snacks (10-12) , pre-game snacks for Freshman and JV, and Varsity dinners
- Provide financial support to the team for equipment, training videos, player recognition & two-a-day t-shirts...and so much more
- Coordinate Bear Grams, Senior Night, End of the Year Banquets
- Offer a college scholarship

Our fundraising comes from these activities:

- SNAP direct donations
- Spirit Wear sales
- Dinner & Auction night
- "Snack Shack" concession sales at varsity home games

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Volunteer** – Spirit Wear Stand, 'Snack Shack', Varsity dinners, Game Day Snacks, Bear Grams, Senior Night, Freshman & JV Team Mom, Two-A-Days
 - Our goal would be to have one family member of each player fill one volunteer spot sometime throughout the season
- **Support** – Bid at the auction or give guilt-free donation. If you would like to know more or are interested in helping out the Boosters, please contact mvboosters@hotmail.com.

Illustrative Example of Youth Sport Support from Community Boosters

Mercer Island High school

MI Boys Lacrosse:

2010	Salaries and compensation:	\$74,972
2011	Salaries and compensation:	\$88,237
2012	Salaries and compensation:	\$79,442
2013	Salaries and compensation:	\$111,086

Groups That Have Received Support From BWFC



Groups That Butch Goncharoff Works With



The Wolverine Tradition Starts @ Age 7 !

