

FLOYD IRONS

DATE: November 12, 2007

APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the:

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
1 N. Keene Street
P.O. Box 1328
Columbia, Missouri 65205-1328

KERWIN URHAHN, Executive Director
MAL MAYSE, Attorney at Law

Also Present:

FLOYD IRONS

RICHARD H. SINDEL
SINDEL, SINDEL & NOBEL, P.C.
8008 Carondelet-Suite 301
Clayton, Missouri 63105

HAL GOLDSMITH
Assistant United States Attorney
Thomas Eagleton U.S. Courthouse, 20th Floor
111 South Tenth Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

SHANNON D. MCGARRY
Supervisory Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
2222 Market Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

1 DOCTOR URHAHN: Mal is gonna ask most of the questions
2 but I may jump in with a few of my own from time
3 to time.

4 I guess to start, Coach Irons, if you can, if
5 you can kind of go through a time line as far as
6 on your jobs at Vashon. I know at some point in
7 time you were the Athletic Director --

8 COACH IRONS: No, I've never been the Athletic
9 Director.

10 DOCTOR URHAHN: You've never been the Athletic
11 Director.

12 But you were, you were the High School
13 Principal for a couple of years there?

14 COACH IRONS: I was a teacher, Assistant Principal, um,
15 --

16 HAL GOLDSMITH: Why don't you just give him the time
17 frame. You started out at --

18 COACH IRONS: I started off as a teacher in '71.

19 MR. GOLDSMITH: Right.

20 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

21 COACH IRONS: Uh, I became, uh, an Administrative
22 Assistant in 1983, uh, yeah; September, '83. In
23 1986, uh, I was, became the, uh, Interim Principal
24 because, uh, the Principal died in office.

25 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

1 COACH IRONS: And, uh, the Superintendent asked me to,
2 uh, perform the function of the Principal --

3 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

4 COACH IRONS: -- from 1980, I think it was '86 when he,
5 whenever I took over because he died in '85, he
6 died in December of '85 so it was 1986 when I --

7 DOCTOR URHAHN: January of '86?

8 COACH IRONS: January of '86 when I took over as the,
9 uh, as the, uh, Interim Principal.

10 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

11 COACH IRONS: So, from, uh, that period up until
12 1990, --

13 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

14 COACH IRONS: -- uh, 1990 there was a reduction in, in,
15 in staff and so forth so I was, uh, demoted, as
16 you would say, I went back to being an Assistant
17 Principal.

18 DOCTOR URHAHN: Assistant Principal, okay.

19 COACH IRONS: So, I was an Assistant Principal from
20 1990 up until around 1994, somewhere, '95, and,
21 uh, at that time I had, there was a, uh, I briefly
22 retired --

23 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

24 COACH IRONS: -- from being the, uh, being Assistant
25 Principal because, uh, we had another Principal in

1 office.

2 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

3 COACH IRONS: Uh, his name was, uh, Ivory Lofton. Uh,
4 Ivory Lofton, uh, died in office --

5 RICHARD SINDEL: Maybe this is not a job you want.

6 SHANNON MCGARRY: That's what I was thinking.

7 MR. GOLDSMITH: You're going to get to the third
8 Principal who died in office, right?

9 COACH IRONS: Well, --

10 MR. GOLDSMITH: It's a lot of them.

11 COACH IRONS: It's a lot, yeah.

12 The, they, Ivory Lofton died, he was the
13 Principal, you know, he was the Principal at that
14 particular time.

15 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

16 COACH IRONS: Then they brought in, uh, Coach Marks
17 and, uh, Bill Baldwin, and as a result, uh, Bill
18 Baldwin left to go to work at an Alternative
19 Program and again they, I, I became the Principal
20 of Vashon for about six months.

21 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

22 COACH IRONS: And at that time, you know, --

23 MAL MAYSE: What was that, what was the year of that,
24 Coach?

25 COACH IRONS: I think it was '90, well, it's got to be

1 '95/'96, in that area of '95/'96.

2 MR. MAYSE: Okay.

3 COACH IRONS: Uh, then Dorothy Ludgood.

4 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

5 COACH IRONS: Dorothy Ludgood took over after, I was
6 the Principal about six months then Dorothy
7 Ludgood, uh, took over. She was an Assistant
8 Principal and then she was, uh, promoted to being
9 the Principal in about '96/'97, in that, in that
10 era. Uh, and she was the Principal up until
11 around 2004.

12 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

13 MR. MAYSE: What, what did you become when she took
14 over?

15 COACH IRONS: Assistant Principal.

16 MR. MAYSE: All right.

17 COACH IRONS: I became Assistant Principal in 2004, I
18 believe it was.

19 And this is, like he was saying, the third
20 Principal that died in office.

21 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

22 MR. MAYSE: Okay.

23 Let's take the, your --

24 MR. GOLDSMITH: So, did you become the Principal then?

25 COACH IRONS: She had cancer and I became again, the

1 Acting Principal again, the Interim Principal.

2 MR. MAYSE: Let's take your coaching, uh, you were a
3 coach during this time as well?

4 COACH IRONS: I been coaching, I started coachin', uh,
5 in 19, uh, 73 or '74.

6 MR. MAYSE: Were you the head coach?

7 COACH IRONS: Well, I started actually in '72 being
8 the, I was an Assistant Coach and then the, '74,
9 '73/'74 I was given the Head Coaching job.

10 MR. MAYSE: Okay, all right.

11 COACH IRONS: So, I've been coaching every since, uh,
12 you can say varsity level since 1973/74.

13 DOCTOR URHAHN: Now, at one point were you not in the
14 District Office as far as for the District-Wide
15 A.D. whenever, whenever, uh, Sam Cook retired did
16 you not take --

17 COACH IRONS: Sam Cook or Dave Cook?

18 DOCTOR URHAHN: Dave Cook. I'm sorry, Dave Cook.

19 COACH IRONS: Well, Dave Cook, --

20 DOCTOR URHAHN: Right.

21 COACH IRONS: Well, I, uh, was, uh, --

22 DOCTOR URHAHN: I don't think they called it District-
23 Wide A.D., they called it --

24 COACH IRONS: Right. It was called the, the Director
25 of Athletics and Physical Education.

1 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

2 COACH IRONS: That's what it was, that's what it was
3 called.

4 MR. GOLDSMITH: For the Public Schools?

5 COACH IRONS: For the Public Schools, right.

6 DOCTOR URHAHN: Right.

7 COACH IRONS: The St. Louis Public Schools.

8 But I was, uh, actually that, that title, I
9 was only that maybe, it wasn't a whole year
10 because Dave Cook was still there.

11 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

12 COACH IRONS: Dave was there and I, I was to learn the
13 position --

14 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

15 COACH IRONS: -- to get accoladed (sic) to it.

16 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

17 COACH IRONS: And Dave, uh, I think is still there
18 doing some form of, he and Sam.

19 DOCTOR URHAHN: Right.

20 COACH IRONS: Uh, what's his name again?

21 DOCTOR URHAHN: Dunlap.

22 COACH IRONS: Dunlap. Sam Dunlap.

23 So, uh, --

24 MR. MAYSE: Can you put a time frame on that again, the
25 dates on that?

1 COACH IRONS: Okay. I can put a time frame on being
2 that as 2005, 2006/2007, in that, in that
3 neighborhood, somewhere around in there 'cause
4 this is 2007, say 2005/2006.

5 MR. MAYSE: All right.

6 COACH IRONS: Pardon me if I can't get the specific
7 dates together on that.

8 DOCTOR URHAHN: So basically if I, if I've got this
9 correct, you were Assistant Principal under
10 Dorothy Ludgood, uh, from '96 to 2004. Whenever
11 she passed away in 2004 --

12 COACH IRONS: 2003, I think it was.

13 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

14 COACH IRONS: 4, actually 2004.

15 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay. Whenever she passed away then
16 you became the Acting Principal again at Vashon.

17 COACH IRONS: Right.

18 DOCTOR URHAHN: And then after doing that for a year
19 then they put you in the Director of Athletics
20 and Physical Education?

21 COACH IRONS: Since that time, right.

22 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay, okay.

23 Just trying to, trying to get an, an idea of
24 what all you've done and the different positions
25 you've held, okay?

1 MS. MCGARRY: When you went to that, um, the District
2 Job, I assume you weren't Acting Principal
3 anymore?

4 COACH IRONS: No, no.

5 Actually I was, uh, for about a year they
6 called, they said I was the Assistant to the
7 Superintendent.

8 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

9 COACH IRONS: Special Assistant to the Superintendent.

10 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

11 MR. MAYSE: Okay.

12

13 QUESTIONS BY MR. MAYSE:

14 Q Coach, uh, I just want to ask since we have,
15 we have gathered some information, we've been
16 looking at some things over a period of several
17 months and I just wanted to get a, give you an
18 opportunity, you know, you've been around coaching
19 and MSHSAA for a long time. You've been familiar
20 with the Handbook, the Rules, the residency,
21 transfers, Transfer Forms, uh, Hardships, when
22 they're, when they're required, and Waivers, all
23 of those things you're familiar with because
24 you've worked with them for a number of years.
25 Wouldn't that be a fair statement?

1 A That would be a fair statement.

2 Q All right.

3 Let me just give you an opportunity, uh, if
4 I can, to tell me if, you know, in all that time
5 if you, if you can in this setting reflect back
6 and tell me was anything, was any student
7 certified, you know, as eligible or participated
8 as an eligible student at Vashon that there were
9 problems with either how the student came to the
10 school, where the student resided, who the student
11 resided with, whether the correct forms were
12 filed, uh, for that student. I want to just give
13 you an opportunity to tell us if there was any,
14 any of these, these students where there was an
15 eligibility defect and the student maybe
16 shouldn't, shouldn't have been in the floor. Can
17 you, can you --

18 A I would, I would say that, uh, as far as
19 eligibility, once the kid was there, the student
20 had enrolled at Vashon, uh, went through the
21 proper procedure for eligibility, you know, when
22 they was there. That, that was not my function.
23 That was the function of the Athletic Director and
24 it was also the function of the Principal to
25 certify at that particular time. But, uh, if

1 there was a question on the, the, uh, social
2 worker would get involved. So, the, the proper
3 paperwork, uh, to certify a kid whether he's, uh,
4 a residential situation or a situation whereby
5 academics, academically if a kid is ineligible,
6 well, eligible or ineligible was, was followed.

7 Uh, if, there's been questions, there have
8 been questions over the years of, of maybe a kid
9 or two who somebody would bring up. I remember
10 in, uh, 1983, I guess I should say '82 or '83, uh,
11 we were, it was brought to our attention that we
12 had a kid, uh, who had transferred in who was a,
13 uh, who was reported that it was a fifth-year
14 student. And while we're talking about Sam
15 Dunlap, uh, this information came to us by way
16 of Roosevelt High school, who, uh, apparently knew
17 or had some information that the kid, uh, was a
18 fifth-year student.

19 Uh, I didn't know that. Uh, my Athletic
20 Director who, uh, was there at the time indicated
21 he didn't know. But, we did do the proper, uh,
22 research to find out that the kid was a fifth-year
23 student and we reported it to MSHSAA. Uh, at that
24 particular time we were, we forfeited, uh,
25 thirteen of nineteen games. Uh, but we, we, we

1 were fortunate enough to do that in a timely
2 manner so we could participate in the State
3 Tournaments and, you know, in the State
4 Tournament. So, once we forfeited those, those
5 particular games, uh, you know, the State allowed
6 us to continue on in to State and the rest is,
7 it's probably documented of that, in the situation
8 in 1983.

9 Q What I, what I am, intend to me mean by my
10 question is not a, maybe not a student where there
11 was a, something that was discovered about an
12 eligibility problem that was brought to MSHSAA's
13 attention. I'm trying, I want to focus on student
14 eligibility problems that weren't reported to
15 MSHSAA or MSHSAA didn't know about or, or student
16 who played that there were some defects under the
17 MSHSAA Eligibility Rules where that student was
18 certified as eligible on a roster by your school
19 but was not, in fact, eligible because of the, the
20 Rules of the Association and played for your
21 school. Okay?

22 And I, I appreciate other people, you know,
23 but you, I think you indicated you've been an
24 Assistant Principal for a long time and I'm, you,
25 you, you are familiar with at least the

1 responsibility of school officials for the
2 eligibility of their students even though it's
3 the, another person is over here the school is
4 responsible for the eligibility, the school
5 officials are responsible for correctly certifying
6 that eligibility.

7 What I'm trying to, to direct to you with my
8 question is an opportunity to tell me if there
9 were any students who did not meet the eligibility
10 standards of the Association that were certified
11 as eligible and played for Vashon High School
12 that, you know, nothing was known by MSHSAA or
13 they played, okay? That's what I'm trying, I want
14 to give you a chance to just tell me if there's
15 any of those students and let me, let me see if I
16 can help you a little bit further. Let's limit,
17 let's come forward to more, more recent history
18 and say 1998 on in, okay?

19 All right. Any students who, to your
20 knowledge, who may have played, even when you're
21 the coach, but based on your knowledge of where
22 they lived, who they lived with, what forms, you
23 know, were required, uh, didn't have eligibility
24 or their, their eligibility was, was somehow
25 really defective, okay? That's what I'm, I want

1 to give a chance to tell me if there's anything to
2 that.

3 A Well, there, there, you know, in that case
4 there are [REDACTED] that, uh, came, came by way of
5 [REDACTED] and they were [REDACTED]. And,
6 uh, and, uh, one of the things that I would, would
7 go on record, if I had to do the situation over
8 again the way it was done I would do it again
9 because of [REDACTED].

10 Q You would have done it?

11 A I would do it again in a heartbeat because I
12 think that, when I say the [REDACTED]
13 and how I was, it was brought to my attention or
14 how I got [REDACTED].

15 Q Well that, let's just take it from there.

16 A Okay.

17 Q Let's start with [REDACTED] --

18 A I --

19 Q -- and how you came in to contact with [REDACTED]

20 A Okay.

21 Uh, I was, uh, told about [REDACTED] that, uh,
22 lived in what I would consider, uh, it wouldn't
23 even be [REDACTED]. And, uh, I guess it
24 came to me by way of a person who, uh, I was
25 involved with in terms of, uh, had a relationship

1 with and that person is Mike Noll. Uh, Mike Noll,
2 uh, told, you know, [REDACTED] and some other
3 kids played with the friend of the father, per se,
4 uh, on an AAU program, on an AAU team.

5 So when, uh, [REDACTED] was, were
6 introduced to me and the father was looking for a
7 place to put his [REDACTED] Uh, when it
8 came to me, uh, I met the father and the father
9 and I talked. Uh, I went [REDACTED] to see --

10 Q Let, let me ask you. Can you tell me, put a
11 time frame on that, summer?

12 A That was, yeah, summer. It was, it was,
13 well, no, not summer. It was maybe, uh, it, it
14 was, it was, it was during, around maybe April,
15 May

16 DOCTOR URHAHN: Of 2002?

17 COACH IRONS: Right, of 2002.

18 That April or May of 2002.

19 Q All right.

20 A I think that [REDACTED] enrolled in, in, in,
21 whenever it was, around that time. So, uh, --

22 DOCTOR URHAHN: Was he, the non-school
23 team was it Game Face or who was
24 it?

25 COACH IRONS: Well, at the time [REDACTED]

1 were not playing with Game Face.

2 [redacted] were not playing --

3 DOCTOR URHAHN: [redacted] were playing with
4 a team out of [redacted] or
5 do you remember who they were
6 playing with at the time?

7 COACH IRONS: They might have been
8 playing with some program out of
9 [redacted] because I didn't
10 know exactly what program [redacted]
11 were playing in.

12 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

13 A Uh, and I guess [redacted] wasn't, it wasn't
14 relevant at the time because, you know, I, you
15 know, I didn't, wasn't dealing, I dealt with our
16 kids in the summer with the Game Face and then
17 wasn't really worried about the other kids who
18 played.

19 But, uh, I, I talked to the father, uh, and I
20 went to see, uh, the [redacted] and the father. I, I, I
21 went to their house and I don't think that, I
22 guess it's not, to you it might not be, it'd be
23 insignificant, you probably don't care about what
24 [redacted] I did
25 at the time. And, and when I saw it I was, I was

1 actually going to check it out but when I saw the

2

3 Q

You want to describe those

4 A

5

Well, were living in a house, uh, and
the father, who was married to

6

7

she had two kids and her two kids
lived in what you could say, they lived upstairs
in the house, in the front portion of the house.

8

9

They lived in the house. lived,
uh, in the back of the house in the basement with

10

11

And,

12

uh, I didn't feel as though that, you know, that

13

was a situation that

14

RICHARD SINDEL: Was it a finished

15

basement?

16

COACH IRONS: There wasn't, there

17

wasn't, it was, it was more of

18

a, they had beds in the back.

19

There were beds in the basement.

20

Uh, there were,

21

I'm not, I don't want to sugarcoat

22

it. I don't want to sound like,

23

you know, but it, it touched me

24

in terms of, uh, the particular

25

(inaudible).

1 A Now, this is not the first time that, you
2 know, I'm sure it's not anything worse than what
3 some of our kids who grew up in that type of, type
4 of situation but, but I did get involved. Okay, I
5 got involved. And it was, I guess it was a lot
6 easier to get involved with that situation than it
7 would be anything else.

8 DOCTOR URHAHN: So, what did you do
9 for [REDACTED] as far as --

10 COACH IRONS: I, I, I'm getting to
11 that part.

12 I talked to the father.
13 The father indicated that he
14 had, he and the, [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] And, uh, what he was,
17 what he was willing to do is
18 he was willing to move to [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] if we could, uh, find
20 him a place to live in with
21 his [REDACTED] uh, and we could
22 help find him some type of, uh,
23 employment.

24 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

25 COACH IRONS: Because he wasn't working

1 at the time. And, uh, so, that was
2 part of the agreement that I said,
3 okay, we would, that I would do
4 that. I would try to help him
5 along with, Mike Noll and I were
6 gonna, gonna help him find a place
7 to stay over this, with [REDACTED]

8 Uh, when it came the time to
9 move, uh, [REDACTED] stayed with me --

10 Q Let, let me, let me, Coach, let me ask a
11 question. Did you take any active steps at that
12 time to find, uh, [REDACTED] father a job
13 before [REDACTED] moved? Did you, did you actually do
14 that?

15 A Yes. We, I was, we, we had, uh, secured a, a
16 job.

17 Q Okay. Where was that job?

18 A He was going to, we talked to, um, this
19 restaurant owner to get him started in a job. Uh,
20 I think it was, I think Mike had talked to, um, I
21 want to say over on Hamilton, I'll think of the
22 name. I'll give you the name.

23 Q The name of the restaurant or the name, name
24 of the --

25 A It's the name of the restaurant.

1 RICHARD SINDEL: Is it in the city?
2 COACH IRONS: No, it's on Hamilton,
3 on south Hamilton off 44 and I,
4 I've eaten there several times.
5 It's a, let me think and I'll
6 get it.
7 Q Well, give you a chance and it'll pop.
8 HAL GOLDSMITH: Hampton?
9 COACH IRONS: Hampton. South Hampton,
10 uh, you go, left-hand side, it's
11 on the left-hand side.
12 HAL GOLDSMITH: The one thing I wanted
13 to make sure you flushed out was
14 when you were talking about with
15 [REDACTED] about moving [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] --
17 COACH IRONS: Right.
18 HAL GOLDSMITH: -- it was gonna be in
19 Vashon and [REDACTED] gonna play
20 for you.
21 COACH IRONS: Oh, yeah. We got that
22 straight.
23 HAL GOLDSMITH: But you didn't say
24 that. I mean, that was part of
25 the agreement.

1 COACH IRONS: Oh, okay. Oh, yeah, no
2 doubt that it was. Yeah, that
3 was part of the agreement.

4 HAL GOLDSMITH: I mean, you weren't
5 just gonna move [REDACTED] over
6 somewhere in the city.

7 COACH IRONS: Oh, no. You, you can
8 assume that I was talkin' about
9 moving somewhere --

10 Q You were gonna move [REDACTED] into a residence in
11 the Vashon District?

12 A Right, in Vashon District.

13 Q And [REDACTED] were going to enroll there and play
14 basketball?

15 A Enroll, become [REDACTED] and play basketball
16 at Vashon.

17 HAL GOLDSMITH: And also play for your
18 AAU team.

19 COACH IRONS: Well, [REDACTED] were, [REDACTED] had
20 already agreed before I had, had
21 gotten in to it [REDACTED] were gonna be
22 playing for the AAU team. And that,
23 that's an agreement that Mike and,
24 and, and, uh, the father, --

25 HAL GOLDSMITH: [REDACTED]

1 COACH IRONS: -- [REDACTED] and
2 this other guy who, who was the
3 go-between between [REDACTED]
4 and Mike who introduced [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] They had already done
6 that.

7 HAL GOLDSMITH: Agreed to play on your
8 AAU --

9 COACH IRONS: [REDACTED] agreed to play.

10 HAL GOLDSMITH: All right.

11 A And see, once [REDACTED] come to Vashon, you
12 know, once [REDACTED] enrolled as a student at Vashon
13 or [REDACTED] comin', [REDACTED] play with, play with the
14 AAU Program. So, [REDACTED] played with the Game Face
15 Program, the AAU.

16 Q All right.

17 A Well, we, we, we were, you know, to find them
18 a place. And it was, it was set up for him to
19 come there to live with [REDACTED] Backing up [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] stayed with me during July and August, [REDACTED]
21 stayed at, [REDACTED] stayed in my house.

22 DOCTOR URHAHN: Okay.

23 A With, with, with, with, with, with, with my
24 family. July and August.

25 Uh, we, we found [REDACTED] a place in Vashon's

1 District so [REDACTED] would be able to come to Vashon.

2 Q What was the address there?

3 A I want to say [REDACTED] Bell or [REDACTED] Bell. It's
4 one, it's either --

5 Q Was it Samuel, Samuel Shepard Drive?

6 A No, it's not that, it's Bell.

7 Q Bell?

8 A Bell, B-E-L-L.

9 And it's two --

10 Q That's the, that's the initial place where
11 [REDACTED] moved from your house in to the Bell?

12 A Right.

13 Q All right.

14 A It's either 4626 or 2646, I know it's a, the
15 two sixes are in there.

16 Q On Bell Avenue?

17 A Bell Avenue.

18 Q How far is that from the school?

19 A Uh, it's in walkin' distance. It's maybe
20 about, less than a mile from Vashon. It's a, a
21 housing development. Uh, --

22 Q Who --

23 A -- it's called the Lucas --

24 Q Did you know the owner of that development?

25 A Did I at the time?

1 Q Yes.

2 A No.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Uh, --

5 Q That wasn't owned by Mr. Noll or somebody?

6 A No, it wasn't owned by Mike Noll.

7 Q Okay.

8 A It was, uh, I, I didn't know the owner but,

9 but once we inquired about the house, you know,

10 about the apartment it wasn't, uh, you know, they

11 knew me.

12 Q Right.

13 Did you take out a lease on that apartment in

14 your name?

15 A No, no.

16 Q Who, whose name --

17 A The lease to the apartment was in [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] name.

19 Q Okay.

20 A The apartment was being leased in [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] name.

22 Q All right, okay.

23 A Now, we did, did talk with the development

24 people to let them know, when I say development,

25 the housing people, we talked with the housing