



Belding Area Schools

The right size. The right choice.

Brent Noskey • Superintendent

February 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members,

When I make decisions for this district it will always be in the best interest of our students. I made a decision today that will not be popular with many people in our community, but it is a decision that is right for kids.

After consulting with our football staff, administration, football players and parents of football players, I have decided not to renew our contract to play our opening football game against Greenville for the next two years. Instead, we have signed a contract to play Laingsburg.

I do realize that the Greenville football game has been a tradition and a long-storied rivalry game. Unfortunately, we have not been able to adequately compete in this game for the past three years. Each of past three games have resulted in Belding being on the losing end of very lopsided losses. Each of these games resulted in a running clock.

After watching last fall's game against Greenville, I questioned why in the world we were playing this game. The only answer I received was, "It's a huge rivalry!" I watched our kids, who were half the size of Greenville's players, get beat up both physically and mentally. Greenville played very few players both ways, while we had many who had to play both ways just to try to stay competitive.

We are a school with less than 600 students, while Greenville has almost 1200 students. I cannot find other examples across the state where a Division 2 football team plays a Division 5 football team. It would be like the University of Michigan playing Hope College. It is not fair on many levels. Frankly, I am surprised that Greenville has not moved on from this game, as it does them a disservice in playoff points to play a school of our size.

I do realize that in the glory years we were able to compete and beat Greenville on a regular basis. However, we have only won two of the past fourteen games, and it no longer makes sense to play this game. We will officially take a two-year hiatus from this game and re-evaluate this game at that time. If school and football numbers increase and we believe we can be competitive in this game again, we would look at bringing this rivalry game back.

I have made this decision with our players' safety in mind. It will not be a popular decision, but it is the right decision for our players.

Regards,

Brent R. Noskey, Superintendent
Belding Area Schools