

To: Athletic Committee Members

From: Robin A. Marttila

Date: December 8, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee. I want to discuss the future of playing Kingsford week 7 of our football schedule. It is my professional opinion that we should drop Kingsford immediately. It is simply what is best for our kids at Iron Mountain.

I am fully aware of the long and great tradition of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford football game. It is a community event that many people look forward to each year.

I have been coaching football in Iron Mountain for 15 years and have seen this coming for the last 3 years. The discrepancy in the enrollment between Iron Mountain and Kingsford is growing too far apart. With this comes a safety issue on the field. Can a player get hurt in any game against any opponent? Absolutely.

Next year we have Gladstone on our schedule week 8 with an enrollment of 478 high school students. Let me say for the record I was against adding Gladstone to the Mid Pen Conference from the beginning. I understand that decision has been made. However, that adds to the discussion of playing Kingsford. Playing Kingsford Week 7 and Gladstone Week 8, two Class B Schools is setting our players up to fail at the most crucial time of the football season.

We all know you need to win 6 games to automatically qualify for the playoffs. Does this matter in this decision? Absolutely. Football is the only varsity sport where you need to qualify to get into a post season tournament.

We all understand our enrollment and the chiental of the kids that we have been getting. Does this matter? Absolutely. That is a complicated issue that has bearing in this decision.

This decision is not made up of any one play, any one game, or any one season. It is based upon looking at the numbers over an extended period of time. Looking into the future it only gets worse.

Every member of my staff (Kevin Sullivan, Dale Powell, Dan St. Arnauld, Harvey Johnson, Scott Jauquet, and Al Hart) is on board with dropping Kingsford.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (906) 396-

Robin A. Marttila
Iron Mountain Head Football Coach

2017 Enrollment numbers

Iron Mountain 303 Students

Kingsford 542 Students

(difference 239)

2002 Enrollment numbers

Iron Mountain 393 Students (23% loss in students in 15 years)

Kingsford 763 Students (29% loss in students in 15 years)

(difference 370)

15 Year Rivarly Record Kingsford 11, Iron Mountain 5