



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Thursday, January 9, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Representative Matt Gress Urges Phoenix Elementary Governing Board to Reconsider Lease Termination for ASU Prep

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Matt Gress, the incoming Chairman of the House Education Committee, today sent a letter to Superintendent Deborah Gonzalez and members of the Phoenix Elementary Governing Board, urging them to halt their effort to close the successful and thriving ASU Preparatory Academy, which leases a previously closed school facility from the district.

“Hundreds of Phoenix families could see their school slated for closure during a last-minute special board meeting scheduled for Thursday morning,” commented Representative Gress on the proposed termination. **“The proposed action is causing distress and frustration among students, staff, and the entire ASU Prep community. The lack of a deliberate and thoughtful process in this instance is disappointing, and I urge the Board to reconsider its intent to terminate the lease.”**

Representative Gress’s letter is attached.

Matt Gress is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 4 in Phoenix. Follow him on X/Twitter at @MatthewGress.

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Arizona House of Representatives

January 9, 2025

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Dr. Deborah Gonzalez
Phoenix Elementary School District
1817 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Re: Proposed Board Action to Terminate Lease with ASU Prep

Dear Superintendent Gonzalez and Members of the Phoenix Elementary Governing Board,

The proposed agenda item on the January 9 special board meeting to terminate the lease with ASU Preparatory Academy for the Fillmore property is causing distress among the hundreds of families that happily attend this school. A basic review of this public school shows a campus that is thriving, efficiently operated, and properly utilized.

It does not go unnoticed that the Board spent painstaking months in public comment with its community over the proposed closure of schools the district operates. To propose ending a lease for a thriving public school that is not underutilized without the same opportunity is disappointing and does not reflect a deliberate or thoughtful process.

As the incoming Chairman of the House Education committee, I look forward to guiding policy development for K-12 education in Arizona. I have initiated a policy discussion with the Governor's Office on establishing a mandatory 90-day comment period before a lease termination or non-renewal notice for an active public school operator. This period of public comment seems appropriate given the potential impact to a school community.

I urge you to treat this school community respectfully and reconsider your intent to terminate the lease with ASU Preparatory Academy. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Gress".

Representative Matt Gress
Legislative District 4

Letter to Phoenix Elementary School District

January 9, 2025

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cc (via email):

Governor Katie Hobbs

Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives Ben Toma

Arizona State Senate President Warren Petersen

House Education Chair Beverly Pingerelli

Senate Education Chair Ken Bennett