



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844
PHONE: (602) 926-3233 • FAX: (602) 417-3043

Speaker of the House Andy Tobin (R-Dist. 01)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YARNELL COMMUNITY POISED TO SUFFER AGAIN - TOBIN ENCOURAGES FINANCIAL SUPPORT

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (July 11, 2014) – After the Yarnell Hill Fire June 2013 that took the lives of 19 firefighters, the Yarnell Elementary School District suffered not only a loss of students, but also a large loss in property values. The loss in related revenues now threatens to severely cut educational services to the families who struggle to remain.

“The community of Yarnell has suffered greatly since the Yarnell Hill Fire,” said Speaker Tobin. “And now, one year later, after struggling to rebuild their community, Yarnell families and their school-age children are poised to suffer again.”

According the Yavapai County Assessor, the Yarnell Hill Fire resulted in a loss of more than \$17 million in property values, which in turn lowered revenues to the Yarnell Elementary School District. School enrollment also dropped by 18 students due to the loss of homes and jobs following the fire, according to the school’s [July 4, 2014, newsletter](#).

The District has one school facility called the Model Creek School that employs five teachers who currently instruct about 30 students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Due the drop in property values and enrollment, the Model Creek School is short about \$150,000 heading into the 2014/2015 school year, according to the Yavapai County School Superintendent Tim Carter.

The school’s newsletter indicates that closing the school is an option. Other options include increasing taxes on the remaining Yarnell residents while at the same time cutting the salaries of the staff and support personnel who are not let go.

At the June 2014 Arizona Chamber of Commerce luncheon Speaker Tobin asked the community gathered to help however they could. Separately, Superintendent Carter said that donations payable to the Yarnell Elementary School District #52 could be mailed to his office at 2970 Centerpointe East Drive, Prescott, AZ 86301.

MEDIA CONTACT:
Christopher Leone
Communications Specialist
cleone@azleg.gov
602.926.3233 (office)
480.242.8643 (cell)

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