



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Joseph Chaplik (R-3)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Tuesday, February 1, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scottsdale Lawmakers Pen Open Letter to Scottsdale School District Governing Board Condemning Superintendent Menzel for Hateful Comments

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representatives Joseph Chaplik and Alexander Kolodin, and Senator John Kavanaugh, representing Legislative District 3 in Scottsdale, today issued an open letter to members of the Scottsdale Unified School District Governing Board condemning Superintendent Scott Menzel for [offensive and hateful comments](#) he [made in a 2019 interview](#). Menzel's comments were [unearthed last week](#) by Fox News and has received national media attention.

An Open Letter to the Scottsdale Unified School District Governing Board

The statements Superintendent Scott Menzel made in an interview about “white people” being “problematic” has made national news, and parents in our districts were shocked that it wasn't followed with an immediate apology from Menzel or a response from the governing board.

The racist words and sentiments Menzel publicly expressed have no place in Scottsdale schools. Superintendent Menzel was hired and trusted to foster a culture of mutual respect among students, parents, and teachers. However, his racist words prove that he is incapable of doing that job.

Scottsdale Unified School District has attracted a lot of controversy in the last year and parents are fed up with the distractions. Scottsdale needs calm leadership that can steady the ship. It is clear, however, that Superintendent Menzel cannot be that leader. Menzel's racist views not only compromise his ability to lead, but he has made himself the center of a controversial spotlight that will only distract from learning.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." These are values Scottsdale families want our city to live by. Menzel, however, chose to do the exact opposite and judge students, parents, and teachers by the color of their skin. This is unacceptable. And it is problematic that Menzel is still in this position leading a large school district.

We are joining with parents calling for Menzel's immediate removal from the board for breaking the trust of the parents, students, and educators of Scottsdale Unified School District. We call on Scottsdale parents to contact their SUSD board members immediately and to ask for an end to this distraction. Menzel resigning is the only way to bring a quick resolution to this controversy. And if Menzel does not have the decency to resign, we are calling on the SUSD board to terminate his employment with cause for the district. Thank you.

A copy of the legislators' letter is attached.

Joseph Chaplik is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 3, which includes Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and the Northeast Valley in Maricopa County. Follow him on Twitter at @JosephChaplik.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Chaplik".

Representative Joseph Chaplik

56th Legislature District 3 – Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, NE Valley

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

Representative Alexander Kolodin

56th Legislature District 3 – Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, NE Valley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kavanagh".

Senator John Kavanagh

56th Legislature District 3 – Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, NE Valley