

Michael Borg
Town Manager



TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH
43 South Washington Street
North Attleborough MA 02760
508-699-0100

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2024
TO: Town Clerk Pat McNielly
FROM: Michael Borg *MJB 13MAY24*
CC: School Committee Chair Tasha Buzzell
Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci
Linda Catanzariti Town Accountant
Chris Sweet Tax Collector/Treasurer

RE: Measure 2024-069- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 of FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund. AMENDED

Town Council Meeting- President Justin Paré
Measure 2024-069- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 of FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund. AMENDED

Purpose and Justification:

Purpose: The purpose of funding the Special Education Stabilization Fund with FY24 Free Cash is to:

1. Ensure continuity of services through the uninterrupted delivery of special education services to students with disabilities, irrespective of financial uncertainties.
2. Address unforeseen costs and expenses that arise due to fluctuations in special education needs.
3. Enhance our flexibility and responsiveness within the school district with the flexibility to respond promptly to emerging special education needs without the need for immediate budget reallocations or cuts to other essential services.

Justification: The need for allocating funds to the Special Education Stabilization Fund is underscored by several critical factors:

1. **Rising Costs:** The cost of providing high-quality special education services is steadily increasing, driven by the need for specialized staff, tailored educational materials, and technology-enhanced learning aids.
2. **Enrollment Variability:** The number of students requiring special education services can fluctuate significantly from year to year, leading to unpredictable budgetary pressures.
3. **Regulatory Compliance:** Federal and state mandates require that all students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, necessitating sufficient funding to comply with these legal obligations.

Community Impact: Investing in the Special Education Stabilization Fund reinforces the community's commitment to supporting all its members, ensuring that students with disabilities have equal opportunities to succeed and contribute to the community.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Town Council vote to transfer \$60,000.00 FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund.

The Town Council met on February 26, 2024, and on behalf of the Town Council, a motion was made by Vice- President Simmons to refer Measure 2024-069- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 of FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund. AMENDED to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and discussion.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Slobogan.

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

The Finance Sub-Committee met on March 6, 2024, and on behalf of the Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Donovan to refer Measure 2024-069- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 of FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund. AMENDED, back to the Full Town Council with a positive recommendation.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Costello.

Motion carried. 6-0 UNANIMOUS

The Town Council met on March 11, 2024, and on behalf of the Town Council, a motion was made by Vice- President Simmons to approve Measure 2024-069- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 of FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund. AMENDED.

The motion was seconded by Councilor St. Pierre.

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS