



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, June 15, 2026 – 9:00 am
Zoom Only**

AGENDA

- I. Legal Opinion from Murphy Lamere & Murphy Regarding SPED Stabilization Funds - Vote to Release to Public**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvyps.zoom.us/j/83540398142?pwd=SyatvZVLpk2lHy5doOG7v5TcynqJyJ.1>

Meeting ID: 835 4039 8142

Passcode: 824522

Edgartown School committee
Monday, June 15, 2026 9:00 am

Legal Opinion from Murphy Lamere & Murphy Regarding SPED Stabilization Funds- Vote to Release to Public

ESC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Murphy- Chair Via Zoom
Elliott Bennett-Via Zoom

STAFF:

Richie Smith-Superintendent
Kate Campbell-Principal
Deb Debettencourt-Assistant Principal
Mark Friedman-Finance

Two members of the school committee needed to approve the release of the legal opinion to the town. Sarah Murphy and Elliott Bennett present.

Attorneys that wrote the opinion are the attorneys for the school committee.

Meeting called to order 9:04am

Mark: last month we discussed a potential unbudgeted residential placement that will affect next year's budget. The stabilization fund in place balance has a balance of \$10,000. \$125,000 is the cap. How can we transfer more into fund to prepare for possible placement for next year. We reached out to town to transfer general funds money. Town did not see that mechanism outside annual budget season. Town asked for legal opinion. Asked school attorney to draft. That opinion was sent to the school committee. Legal opinion belongs to school committee. Committee needs to vote to release opinion to the town.

Elliott: Never saw the form. How often have we had to dip in.

Mark. Fund is new to us. Only a year old. In place precisely for this situation.

Elliott: how often have we placed students out of district. What is the cost.

Kate: \$300,000 for this student to attend The Walker School
Student moved to compass. Still aggressive and have run out of options.

Elliott: supports decision wants to make sure school is covered.

Mark: We hope we don't have to go back to the town. Need to maximize fund now. Maybe $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of cost for next year. Apply to DESE for extraordinary circuit breaker relief plan, Apply this winter for those funds.

Kate: right now 45 day placement. We need more information.

Mark: Not asking for money, just asking to share legal opinion showing that the school committee has the ability to move money.

Kate: We have the money just moving it.

ytd we will pay \$300.000

Richie: we need to get to the vote

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS BENNETT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY, THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED SHARING THE LEGAL OPINION FROM MURPHY LAMERE & MURPHY REGARDING SPED STABILIZATION FUNDS WITH THE TOWN OF EDGARTOWN. 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS MURPHY AND SECONDED BY MS BENNETT THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 AM. 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.