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# Court Impact Fee Ruling a Victory for School Board

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The Ledger

Published: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 12:12 p.m.

LAKELAND | In a victory for the Polk County School District, the Florida Supreme Court has refused to hear the Polk County Builders Association's case against school impact fees.

The court voted 4-2 not to hear the case. Justice Charles Canady recused himself because he has relative working for the district.

The decision likely ends the costly lawsuit between the Builders Association and the district that has dragged on for nearly three years, and cost both sides more than \$100,000 in legal fees.

About \$18 million, half the impact fee revenue, that had been set aside in an escrow account now can be used for building.

Board Member Frank O'Reilly said the lawsuit was detrimental to students.

"That \$18 million has been tied up for a number of years," O'Reilly said. "We could have used it for buildings or equipment that could have been for the students."

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