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Rolling back Volusia school impact fee recommended

DELAND – People who build new homes in Volusia County could get a break on school impact fees if the County Council goes along with a recommendation from School Superintendent Margaret Smith.

In a Wednesday letter to County Chairman Frank Bruno, Smith recommended the council roll back the impact fee to the \$6,066 amount that was in effect until April 1. An automatic adjustment under existing county ordinance raised the fee last week to \$8,547.

School Board members, who are in the process of adopting a new impact fee over the next several months, have said they are willing to consider discounting it in light of the current economic climate and declining student enrollment.

Given the School Board's stated intent to consider a discount, Smith said Wednesday it would be fair to roll back the fee to the pre-April 1 level for now.

"While this could affect the district's capital construction program, I believe the action strikes a fair balance between the needs of the students and the needs of the development community," she wrote to Bruno.

Smith said she timed the letter so the County Council could consider the proposal today if it chooses to do so.

County Council Meets

WHEN: Today, 9 a.m.; public participation starts at 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand.

AUDIO: Real-time audio of the meeting is available through the county's Web site: www.volusia.org/countycouncil/info.htm#audio.

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