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## Snoqualmie Valley School District seeks impact fee approval

August 11, 2010

By Laura Geggel

The North Bend City Council asked the Snoqualmie Valley School District if it had planned enough to prevent school crowding at its July 20 meeting.

District Business Director Ron Ellis said the district had, as he presented the district's proposed 2011 impact fees, part of its six-year Capital Facilities Plan.

The Capital Facilities Plan outlines three major growth components, including what new buildings the district plans to build, what land officials propose to buy and how many portable classrooms the district needs.

In its 2010 Capital Facilities Plan, the district plans to build a new elementary and middle school, both located on Snoqualmie Ridge on the land the district already owns.

The middle school, proposed to open for the 2013-14 school year, would replace Snoqualmie Middle School, which Mount Si High School is set to annex that same year. The new elementary school is proposed to open for the 2015-16 school year.

The six-year plan includes more than the two new schools; it also proposes the district buy 36 portable classrooms, bringing the district's total portable classroom count to 94 by 2015.

Of the 36 new portable classrooms, 10 would be for elementary schools, 16 would be for middle schools and 10 would be for the high school.

According to the plan's cost estimates, the district can set local impact fees, which affect new dwellings. Before implementation, the district's impact fees need to be approved by the School Technical Review Committee of

King County; Snoqualmie Valley School Board; the cities of Snoqualmie, Sammamish and North Bend; and the King County Council.

Several Sammamish neighborhoods send their children to Snoqualmie Valley schools.

If approved, this year's impact fees would be among the highest in the region.

For single-family dwellings, the proposed charges would be \$5,628 for Riverview, \$5,266 for Auburn and \$3,808 for Issaquah. For multifamily dwellings, like an apartment building, the proposed charges would be \$2,169 for Riverview, \$1,518 for Auburn and no charge for Issaquah.

If approved, the Snoqualmie Valley district would top its neighbors.

A single-family dwelling would cost developers \$8,140 (last year, it was \$2,687) and a multifamily dwelling would cost developers \$3,252 (last year, it was \$1,033).

Ellis said he had recently readjusted the impact fees after acquiring more recent student enrollment projections. The district is projected to grow by 7 percent in the next six years, to an estimated total of 8,037 students in 2015-16.

The district can house up to 6,582 students in its buildings and portable classrooms now.

After looking at the Capital Facilities Plan, North Bend councilman Alan Gothelf asked why so many students would have to be housed in portables. In a later interview, Ellis said portables were the district's only alternative at the time.

"Until we can get a bond passed to build schools, we're going to have to use portables to bridge the gap," Ellis said.

Councilman Dee Williamson said he had not seen any out-of-the-box thinking regarding school crowding and budget cuts from the district, like year-round school, but Ellis said that annexing Snoqualmie Middle School was one creative solution the district had approved.

Ellis said he and Ryan Stokes, the district's new business director, would meet with the Snoqualmie City Council in August. The School Technical Review Committee of King County already looked at the plan, and Sammamish has yet to see it, Ellis said. The plan will either be approved or rejected by the King County Council this fall.



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Written by Laura Geggel · Filed Under [Local News](#)

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