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## **Doubling School Impact Fees Recommended**

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*The Ledger*

*Published: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 12:42 p.m.*

BARTOW | School impact fees could more than double under a recommendation presented Wednesday by consultant Randy Young during a joint meeting between the Polk County Commission and the Polk County School Board.

Young recommended increasing the fee from \$4,171 to \$9,456 for a new single-family home.

The fee would not increase until the County Commission approves a change in the impact fee ordinance.

No date has been set for a public hearing to consider the change.

County Commission Chairman Bob English said after the meeting that he will meet with County Manager Mike Herr to set a date .

English said he wanted to pick a date where there were no other major public hearings because he expects the issue to be heavily debated.

In recommending the increase, Young listed a number of factors ranging from projected increases in enrollment and the cost of providing that capacity.

During Wednesday's presentation, board members and commissioners asked how the passage of a change in class size amendment on the November ballot would affect the impact fee calculations.

There would no effect, Young said, since the amendment would preserve the present requirement by halting its effect beyond the campus level.

School Board member Margaret Lofton said what's important for the discussion is what the law is now.

"We have to follow the current law on class size, regardless of what the voters decide in November," she said.

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