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Impact fees, changes to attendance zones top Volusia School Board agenda

By LINDA TRIMBLE, Education writer 

DELAND -- The School Board is expected to make a two-year moratorium on collecting school impact fees in Volusia County official this week.

The moratorium, which would be retroactive to Jan. 1, is part of an agreement the board reached in January with the Volusia Building Industry Association to end a lawsuit the trade group filed in 2008. It charged the impact fee formula was misapplied when the county ordinance establishing the fee was revised in 2005 at the School Board's request.

Impact fees are charged to developers -- and passed along to their customers -- to pay for roads, parks, schools and other amenities needed to serve residents of new housing.

The homebuilders association agreed to withdraw its lawsuit if the board went ahead with the moratorium on collecting the \$6,066 impact fee on each new housing unit built in Volusia County.

A public hearing on the moratorium will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the School Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Ave., as part of a School Board meeting that starts at 4 p.m.

Proposed changes to four schools' attendance zones also will be presented at that hearing and voted upon later in the meeting.

They call for a DeLand neighborhood where about 70 middle school students live to be reassigned from DeLand Middle to Southwestern Middle. The area is south of Howry Avenue and north of Beresford Avenue between Boundary and Adelle avenues.

In East Volusia, the plan would transfer about 100 students from South Daytona Elementary to Turie T. Small Elementary. They live in an area east of Nova Road, running north and south of Bellevue Avenue in Daytona Beach.

Both changes are expected to save money on busing and fill additional seats at schools with extra room.

The School Board also plans to take a first look Tuesday at proposed minor changes to the student dress code that took effect last August.

They would allow students to wear sunglasses when they're outdoors and clarify a ban on see-through or skin-tight clothing, ripped items and profanity or words or symbols promoting drugs, alcohol, tobacco and gang-related or illegal activities applies to lower garments as well as upper ones.

A final vote will come after a later public hearing.

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