An Update on the Smith Property

Hello, Collinswood Language Academy families –

We wanted to reach out to provide you with an update on the progress we're making at the Smith property.

As always, ensuring the safety of students and staff in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools remains our top priority. Earlier today, CMS leaders conducted a coordinated site review of the former Smith property alongside the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, the Charlotte Fire Department, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg CARES team to assess conditions and confirm alignment on security and monitoring measures.

Additionally, CMS Police and CMS Building Services completed a joint interior walk-through to confirm the building was vacated and to evaluate additional steps needed to strengthen site security. To enhance security measures that have already been in place, CMS is:

- Continuing to remove trash and debris from the property
- Installing additional "No Trespassing" signage and fencing in key areas
- Increasing CMSPD patrols to twice daily
- Increasing daily building checks by our CMS Building Services team
- Maintaining a dedicated School Resource Officer at Collinswood Language Academy
- Coordinating with CMPD for continued patrols throughout the day and evening hours

In response to community concerns, the public is asked to avoid entering the property while this work is underway. We are working diligently with county and city partners to further address this matter. While the disposal of school property must comply with state statute and requires multiple approvals, CMS is actively evaluating long-term options for the site, including future sale and demolition. We anticipate completing this evaluation phase in the coming months and will provide additional updates as timelines are finalized.

Our immediate priority has been, and will continue to be, securing the property, strengthening monitoring efforts, and maintaining close coordination with school leadership and public-safety partners to ensure the continued safety of the community.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools