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CMS, city clash on new development

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By: News 14 Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Charlotte-Mecklenburg school leaders, in a meeting Wednesday with the Charlotte City Council, said the district will have to spend \$6 million on new classrooms if the city approves a large housing development off York Road in southwest Charlotte.

Last month, some council members lashed out at the district for proposing an impact fee on developers.



A new development off York Road would add to overcrowding problems, according to the school board.

CMS dropped the impact fee in the latest round of recommendations, but instead told the council how much it would spend to accommodate the new students the development would bring.

Council member John Lassiter says there is still more work to do on communication between the city and the school district.

"We've got a lot of conversations that need to happen face-to-face about how they are going to approach this," he said. "What are the expectations? How are we communicating staff to staff, as opposed to the current process, which was a little bit at arms length?"

Lassiter also wants the school board to take a vote on the recommendations. For years, CMS did not weigh in on new developments, but now it says many of those developments are to blame for the overcrowding problem.

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