

## CMS wants to hear from residents to help select their next Superintendent



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**Date** 2022-09-27 09:20

CMS Engagement Press Release\_Final\_Update.pdf (~156 KB)

### CMS wants to hear from residents to help select their next Superintendent

CHARLOTTE (September 26, 2022) - The **Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board** wants to know what parents and community members are looking for in a new Superintendent. The school board is working with Charlotte-based consulting firm **Civility Localized** to conduct community engagement from September 26 to December 13, 2022. Gathering community input in an authentic and inclusive manner is critical for the school board superintendent search process.

"We want to hear from students, parents, staff, and partners throughout Mecklenburg County. Your voices matter. What personal qualities and skills do you value in the next superintendent? Share your hopes, dreams, and expectations," says Elyse C. Dashew, Chairperson of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board.

Community Engagement for this important search will include interviews, focus groups, surveys, and more. To know when and how to participate, community members should visit the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools website on September 26th: [www.cms.k12.nc.us](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us) and select Superintendent Search Community Engagement Kickoff to visit the survey website. The consultant team will involve the community through innovative and welcoming activities. The input gathered will be reported to the Board at their December 13 meeting. This input will inform the superintendent search, which will begin in January 2023, with an expectation of hiring the superintendent by summer.

According to Christine Edwards, Founder of Civility Localized, "The goal is to gain as many perspectives as possible. We value the lived experiences of each participant and hope to illuminate the needs and priorities of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community in an authentic way."

Civility Localized has worked on community engagement projects across the nation from managing police-community relations in Asheville, Chapel Hill, and Charlotte, NC and most recently coordinating the allocation of \$3 Million of County funding for the Mecklenburg County Participatory Budgeting Pilot Program. This Charlotte-based firm, led by a CMS graduate, brings personalized knowledge and lived experience to this project.

**CMS Board Chair, Elyse Dashew, and Civility Localized Founder and Principal, Christine Edwards, MPA are both available for media interviews about this engagement initiative:**

**Friday, September 30, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST**

To confirm interviews email: [christine@civilitylocalized.com](mailto:christine@civilitylocalized.com)

**About Civility Localized:** Established in 2018, Civility Localized (formerly Amplify Charlotte) is a minority-owned, woman-owned consulting firm located in Charlotte, NC. We work with large and mid-sized urban municipalities to enhance their community engagement capacity and increase awareness of important initiatives by hosting workshops, focus groups, and conducting feedback surveys. Using our Engagement First approach, we deliver place-based outreach initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents and stakeholders.

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