

Charges possible in teen's death

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Police, DA's Office consider Trevyan case

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A promised outside investigation into the death of Rochester student Trevyan Rowe has yet to materialize, but criminal charges against people who are involved in his case are still possible.

Trevyan, 14, bolted from School 12 on South Avenue the morning of March 8, though school officials didn't realize he was missing until late afternoon. His body was found in the Genesee River on Sunday.

Hours later, schools Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams promised "an independent investigation ... so we will have a thorough report in accounting for our community."

School officials later said the in-

See **CHARGES, Page 6A**

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Continued from Page 1A

vestigation could involve the state attorney general or the Department of Education.

But state education officials told the *Democrat and Chronicle* on Wednesday they were not investigating. The Attorney General's Office, which has made no public announcement regarding Trevyan's case, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

However, both Rochester police and the Monroe County District Attorney's Office said they are still considering whether anyone involved in the case should be charged.

At a news conference Tuesday afternoon, Rochester Police Chief Michael Ciminelli cast doubt on the idea, saying, "You'd have to find evidence of a crime." But a few blocks away, the Rochester City School District was holding its own media briefing. There, school officials said that five employees outside the school to monitor the arrival of students had failed to notice Trevyan walking off campus shortly after his bus arrived.

Additionally, they revealed that three employees had wrongly marked Trevyan present March 8. One of those employees allegedly later attempted to modify those attendance records. One of the three is a full-time teacher, and is on paid leave. The other two are per diem substitutes, who are on leave without pay, said Adam Urbanski, president of the teachers union.

"I absolutely feel like the bus doesn't stop at the three," city school board member Beatriz LeBron said before an executive session Thursday. "... I will push for further review of protocols. ... In my mind there is a whole chain of people that can go."

Ciminelli was not aware of the district's findings when he spoke Tuesday, Deputy Police Chief La'Ron Singletary said Thursday. Now that he does know, charges are a possibility, he said.

First, however, Rochester police are waiting to see where there will be an independent probe by some outside agency that could bring charges itself or refer them to prosecutors, Singletary said.

Officials in the District Attorney's Office "can't say one way or another whether anybody will be criminally charged," spokeswoman Calli Marianetti said.

School Board President Van White said that, to date, no law enforcement had inquired into the employees' actions.

The state Education Department told the newspaper that "the investigation into the circumstances of this heartbreaking incident, appropriately, will be left to the proper law enforcement authorities."

Spokeswoman Emily DeSantis did say that the superintendents of Monroe No. 1 and Monroe-Orleans No. 2 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, as well as personnel from a state special education assistance center, will help the Rochester district review safety policies and procedures.

Monroe County Legislator Ernest Flagler-Mitchell, D-Rochester, called for the state Education Department to delve into district attendance policies and practices. White said that the district is doing its own investigation for now, but that he expects "at some point an independent entity will take the ball" and conduct a thorough review.

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Ciminelli