

RCSD to pay Trevyon Rowe estate \$1.15 million

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The Rochester City School District will pay \$1,150,000 to the estate of Trevyon Rowe, according to a pending

settlement agreement, ending a lawsuit over the 14-year-old's death in 2018.

The district will pay \$500,000 of that sum, with its insurer covering most of the remainder.

Rowe was in seventh grade at School 12. He got off the bus the morning of March 8, 2018, but immediately left on foot down South Avenue rather than entering school. No one noticed, and in fact several of his teachers falsely

marked him present for the day.

He made his way to the Frederick Douglass-Susan B. Anthony Memorial Bridge downtown, then fell into the Genesee River and died. His body was found several days later after a massive community search.

A lawsuit on behalf of his estate was filed in 2019, alleging neglect and malfeasance by the school district. It said that Rowe, a special education student who had run away from school before and had spoken about suicide in an alarming manner, should have been watched more closely, among other problems.

An investigation by the state attorney general's office affirmed as much in a review published a year after his death.

According to a Rochester school board resolution last month, the settlement came after mediation among the parties. Claims against the city of Rochester were dismissed earlier this year, but First Student, the bus company that brought Trevyon to school that day, remained as a defendant as

The money nonetheless will go to Houston and possibly other family members after Iacovangelo takes his share.

Trevyan's aunt and uncle, Velma and Kent Handy, have asserted some claim to guardianship, and his father has been mentioned in the surrogate's court paperwork as well.

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Rowe

well. The settlement must proceed through state Supreme Court and then Surrogate's Court for final approval, RCSD General Counsel Steve Carling said. It has not yet been filed publicly and Carling said he could not provide it. An attorney for the estate did not respond to a request for comment.

The settlement is with Trevyan's estate, which is being managed by Monroe County Public Administrator Frank Iacovangelo. An earlier lawsuit by Trevyan's mother, Carrie Houston, was thrown out because she was not the official administrator of the estate, having been disqualified by a prior felony conviction.

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