

## **School administrators may be charged in rape - Wayne prosecutor seeks answers about security from officials today**

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DETROIT -- Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan plans to meet with top Detroit school officials Wednesday to discuss security in the schools.

Prosecutors are still investigating last week's rape of a 12-year-old girl in Hutchins middle school, and Duggan said Tuesday he may criminally charge administrators in the central office and at the school with failing to provide a safe environment for students.

As part of the investigation, Duggan plans to ask Detroit schools CEO Kenneth Burnley why a school security officer wasn't assigned to replace the one on sick leave. He also wants to know what the staff knew about earlier conflicts between the victim and her alleged attackers.

"There is too much apathy on the part of administrators in that school district," said Duggan, who was in charge of the district's emergency building repairs in 1999. "When apathy causes kids to be attacked in school buildings, that apathy may be criminal."

The Hutchins student told police that a 15-year-old boy raped her while two girls, a 15-year-old and a 13-year-old, held her down in a crawl space on the school's fourth floor. The 15-year-old girl had a history of bullying the victim, according to the victim's attorney, Michael Cutler. School officials had even suggested that the girl take a self-defense class or a course about how to deal with bullies, he said.

Prosecutors have charged **Audi Drew Dawson**, the 15-year-old boy who is accused of raping the student, and Dominique Brown, the 15-year-old girl who is accused of pinning her down, as adults. They are charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim younger than 13, and they face a possible life sentence if convicted.

The other 13-year-old girl is being held at the Wayne County Youth Home on the same charges. The 14-year-old boy who allegedly lured the victim out of her Spanish class is expected to be charged this week. He allegedly told the Spanish teacher that another teacher wanted to see the girl.

Duggan said he will ask the school district to have security policies for each school. District spokesman Stan Childress said security cameras and 76 more security guards are planned for high schools and middle schools next fall.

"We are going to make sure the district understands that they have legal responsibility for the safety of the kids in the school," Duggan said.

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