

STABBING RAISES SECURITY ISSUES DENBY TEENS WORRY ACTIONS AREN'T ENOUGH

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Denby High School students took little comfort in tight **security** measures Wednesday, a day after a student was stabbed to death in a gang dispute.

"You can't bring anybody back by checking everyone now," said Ben Dober, an 18-year-old Denby senior. At the school, extra **security** staff patted down students after they walked through metal detectors.

Dober and other students predicted that the extra **security** would end in a week or two, again making it easy to smuggle weapons into school.

But school officials said **security** alone won't end the violence. They urged parents to help find peaceful ways to resolve conflicts.

"We can never get enough **security** in there to prevent these tragedies," said school board President Irma Clark. "You can't follow students every minute of the day."

She called for more volunteers to work with students.

Two Denby students charged in the death, Ralph Junus Williams and Ronald Moore Jr., both 15, are being held in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility on charges of first-degree murder. They are expected to be charged as adults and arraigned today in 36th District Court in Detroit.

Detroit police said Moore on Tuesday smuggled a six-inch steak knife into the school and handed it to Williams, who stabbed Demetrius Anderson, 16, in a hallway.

Lt. Joan Ghougoian, commander of the Homicide Section, said the fight started in the lunchroom, when Anderson allegedly struck Williams in the face, triggering a confrontation between gang members that continued onto the second floor of the school and ended with Anderson's **stabbing** .

"I don't know how he got into this mess," Williams' mother, Martha, said Wednesday after a juvenile court hearing. She said he's "a good boy; he's never been in trouble before."

However, juvenile court records indicate Ralph Williams and his 18-year-old sister were arrested by Detroit police Dec. 19 after bailing out of a stolen car. The case is pending.

Ronald Moore was committed to the Michigan Department of Social Services in August 1993 after convictions for several crimes including larceny, burglary and violation of probation.

Moore was sent to a residential treatment facility in Monroe operated by Boysville of Michigan, and, after completing the program last June, was sent to live with his aunt, Brenda Collier, in Detroit. His mother is disabled; his father lives in another state.

School officials would not say how long the extra **security** would stay in effect at Denby. No weapons were found Wednesday.

Detroit Public Schools spokesman Steve Wasko said the district has 200 metal detectors, costing \$3,000 each. He said the district can't afford to put one at each of Denby's 15 to 25 doors.

At a news conference Wednesday, schools Superintendent David Snead said he has asked area superintendents to review school safety plans. He also wants to expand peer-mediation programs. He said violence is a social problem and everyone needs to address it.

"It goes beyond Detroit public schools," he said.

Cassandra McCree, a Denby parent representative on the Area School Community Organization, a parents' advisory group, said: "There's no excuse for what happened at Denby. Parents need to be involved."

Denby's Local School Community Organization meets Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at Denby High School. For information, call 1-313-866-7200.

Caption: Photo GABRIEL B. TAIT/Detroit Free Press

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