



Madison Police Department

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March 5, 2019

Those of us in policing who have made a commitment to being guardians to the community are particularly vigilant whenever a child is involved as a potential victim. Truly, children represent the most vulnerable and voiceless among us and it is only appropriate that affirmative steps are taken in a timely manner to ensure a child's safety and to seek appropriate consequences for those who would do harm to a child, who does not have the capacity to challenge an adult in a position of authority.

That said, we balance our natural inclination to defend our kids with the obligations of being an officer of the court, pledged to ensuring that investigations are thorough, objective, and that constitutional protections of fundamental fairness and due process are adhered to in our system of justice.

Mindful of the various interests that must be balanced in any potential criminal case, the Madison Police Department conducted a thorough investigation into the incident that occurred at Whitehorse Middle School (218 Schenk St) on February 13. MPD personnel and subject matter experts interviewed multiple witnesses (including staff and students), examined video and reviewed Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) policy and training guidelines. At the completion of the investigation, all reports and investigative materials were provided to the Dane County District Attorney's Office for review.

State law allows school personnel to physically restrain a student under certain circumstances. The MMSD employee involved in this case had been provided training by the District in responding to student behavioral issues, and doing so was one of his primary job functions. The origin of this incident stems from performance of that unique job dimension. MPD's investigation focused solely on potential criminal violations, and does not address compliance with MMSD policy or procedure.

Due to the community interest in this incident, MPD is releasing redacted reports through a link on our website.

Chief Michael C. Koval