

To the Editor:

A 14-year-old boy was found bleeding at a gas station on Sherman Avenue after being stabbed 12 blocks north at Warner Park late the afternoon of January 17. Police arrested a 16-year-old girl for the crime.

Both may have been involved in a dispute between several students earlier that Tuesday at Sherman middle school, according to authorities.

For the last eight years, Madison's public schools have been practicing "a restorative and progressive approach to school discipline," according to the Madison school district's website.

Administrators told the board of education in January 2022, "Restorative justice in education is aligned with beliefs and values articulated in the strategic framework" including "racial and social justice."

So it is fair to ask: Is former superintendent Jennifer Cheatham's Behavior Education Plan working? Isn't it time Madison schools issued a report card? Still waiting for answers to these questions first posed to the school district on February 3, 2020:

1. What is the course work for restorative justice?
2. How many hours is it conducted?
3. Do attendees miss their regular academic classwork?
4. What criteria determine who qualifies? What offenses are too serious for restorative justice?
5. How many students have undergone restorative justice?
6. How many have a) failed? b) been re-admitted? c) suspended or expelled? and d) referred to the criminal justice system?

I don't think administrators or school board members know or want to know. With another school board election looming April 4, isn't it time for answers?