

Students march to the capitol to protest Tony Robinson's death

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MADISON, Wis -- "Hands up! Don't shoot!" was among many things students shouted at the Capitol. Hundreds of students spent the day marching for Tony Robinson. They say it is their duty to have their voices heard, to bring change.

A senior at East high school, Shawndale James says even younger kids, understand a lot of what is going on.

"Most people think people our age, really don't understand what's really going on, It seems like everybody knows what's going on so, let's change it, make it better," said James.

Crowds initially gathered outside on Capitol Square. They eventually made their way inside the building, filling all levels of the rotunda-- chanting.

Michael Johnson, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County says it is important to recognize the voices of young people.

"I think our country needs to hear directly from our young people the fact that these kids got up and they're wanting to do, doing it in a peaceful way it represents the fabric of our community," said Johnson.

To keep the students safe, adults from the community were invited to join the rally as well. They kept watch and made sure everything was done in a calm and safe manner.

Katie Zaman, marched along with her son to the Capitol.

"I'm here to protect them, I'm here to make sure that my son has a really positive experience, standing up for what's right," said Zaman.

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As for the schools, Madison Metropolitan School District superintendent Jennifer Cheatham says they are out to support the method of expression the kids have chosen in response to the situation.

"I think it's important for children to learn how to express themselves, to advocate for themselves and one another, there are many ways to do that, this is one of them," said Cheatham.

Along with change, students say they wanted to come and show respect for a lost life.

Students were led by various community leaders, including the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition.

Several other events are planned for this coming week--nbc15.com will keep you updated.

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