



Breathalyzers to be used at dances



New policy seeks to promote safety of students at dances | Stuart Rodgers

Adviser chairs will breathalyze inside of dances rather than on buses

by Millie Winter

On Feb. 20, 2017, the New Trier Board of Education implemented a new policy regarding the breathalyzing of buses as they arrive to school dances, impacting the way breathalyzing will be done for Trevapolooza.

The previous policy required those attending school dances to be breathalyzed on their bus as it arrived on campus.

According to policy 7-140, the Board of Education emphasizes breathalyzing because of a “concern for the health and safety of its students.”

The new policy’s main goal is to continue the breathalyzing process,

but will be in a new location for a more private interaction with the hopes of improving the safety for those attending.

According to Assistant Principal Scott Williams, who oversees discipline matters, the new policy is one that allows breathalyzing to be done in the most fit environment.

“Breathalyzing inside the school allows for a more private individual interaction,” Williams said. He explained that students would be chosen at random and removed from their peers, which allows for a one on one exchange.

This policy was in effect at this year’s Homecoming and will be done at the upcoming Trevapolooza.

The new process allows for those administering the breathalyzer test, usually adviser chairs, to have a personal conversation with students away from the hectic environment that the party bus can bring.

The party bus can be loud and

crowded. Breathalyzing in a location like this can be difficult for those administering it and those receiving.

“Breathalyzing is something you should have a reasonable level of privacy for,” Williams explained.

Although breathalyzing won’t be done on the buses, Williams said, “Adviser chairs will be getting on vehicles, checking out the vehicle and making sure everyone is safe.”

Teen drinking has been an issue for a long time, and still remains an issue at New Trier.

Despite Foundation For Advancing Alcohol Responsibility statistics showing that among 12-20 years olds rates of binge drinking and heavy alcohol abuse has declined between 2007 to 2016 nationally, New Trier’s rate has remained the same.

“The YRBS data shows that the drinking rate at New Trier is not decreasing,” said Williams. This stresses the need for a secure breathalyzing process in order to promote the safety of those attending, he said.

Some wonder whether they will continue the policy for future dances. “As long as the district policy stays the same, then we will continue to be in line with this process,” said Williams.

Williams also stated that the policy might change if “situations arise.” The administration seeks to continually improve the overall high school experience for both the students, administrators, and families.

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In Loving Memory of Sofi Troglia



New Trier Student Sofia “Sofi” Katherine Troglia, of Glencoe, passed away on Dec 15, at the age of 16. She was born August 14, 2001 to parents Brian and Sarah Troglia. Sofi was a member of New Trier’s High Five Choir and a cherished member of the New Trier and Glencoe communities. Her friends from High Five Choir recall her sweet nature and her ability to light up any room she walked into with her “cute” voice and positive attitude. She loved to play Jenga with her friends and do her “happy dance” while walking out of daily choir practice. Sofi loved her family and spending time with her sister Cecilia “Ceci” Troglia and with her twin Isabella “Bella” Troglia during their time in High Five Choir. Her High Five friends recall how she would hug her sister every time it was their turn to introduce a song during practice and concerts. Many High Five friends and faculty fondly remember the time Sofi excitedly ran to hug her sister before their introduction of the ukulele version of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” during one concert. High Five Choir director Susan Vaughan recalled, “she was so full of love and she was always able to bring a smile to anyone’s face.” According to Bella, outside of school Sofi loved going to the beach, swinging on the swings at the park, and jumping on her family’s trampoline. Her Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, Dec 20, 4:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, in Winnetka. In addition to the funeral service, the community celebrated Sofi’s life by wrapping ribbons of her favorite color, purple, around trees in Glencoe and Winnetka as well distributing purple ribbons to New Trier students on Dec 22, during the High Five Choir’s annual holiday concert.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to New Trier Educational Foundation or Misericordia.

Second incident of racist graffiti prompts calls for change

Students and staff emphasize need for continued action

by Rebecca Lee

On Dec. 22, weeks after an incident on the Northfield campus, a teacher discovered a racial slur graffitied on a bathroom stall at the Winnetka campus, provoking emotional reactions as well as calls for institutional change from both students and staff.

The second perpetrator also wrote a phrase containing the “n-----” word on the bathroom stall.

“It was 2 o’clock in the afternoon, on the Friday before winter break, when I’m standing there in the bathroom looking at [the graffiti],” recalled Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Timothy Hayes.

Many staff members expressed that they felt disappointment upon hearing that an older student graffitied a racial slur on a bathroom stall at the upperclassman campus.

“I was sad. I was sad for the people who had to see the graffiti, and I was sad for the minority students referenced in the graffiti. There was

also more disappointment when I heard about the second incident,” said Spanish teacher and adviser Joshua Sollie.

Students and teachers also expressed that they felt a greater sense of urgency after two incidents.

“It fosters an environment where students and staff members don’t feel safe. I think about the people who cleaned that up. It fosters a feeling of a lack of safety in the school,” said Social Studies teacher and IGSS coordinator Lindsay Arado.

“When I heard about the first incident I was shocked, not that this had happened but that someone was capable of transferring their thoughts about black people into physical form: they wanted it to be known that black students don’t belong at New Trier. I was more than anything scared,” said a member of African American Club, who wished to remain anonymous.

Many also discerned a larger problem outside of the two isolated incidents. “If there is that sentiment so shallowly beneath the surface, there’s probably more to talk about than we even anticipated,” said English teacher and adviser Aileen Heidkamp.

Social Studies teacher and

adviser Todd Maxman echoed, “This should not surprise us. This is a reminder to me that we have so much work to do.”

On the morning of Jan. 10, Superintendent Dr. Paul Sally made a statement on the PA about the racial slur discovered on the bathroom stall at the Winnetka campus. “We realized that we needed to respond in a more direct way,” said Sally.

Per an email sent by the administration, all advisers then led discussions with their students. The discussions were expected to center around equity and race at New Trier.

Staff members commended administrators’ efforts to directly involve students in the conversation, especially as there were no such efforts in response to the first incident of graffiti.

“The second time, [the administration] did it maybe with a greater sense of urgency, or the sense that this is a student issue. This was more clearly defined as a student conversation,” said Heidkamp.

“I appreciate that when this happened the second time, conversations did happen,” added Arado.

However, both students and

teachers felt that these conversations not only came late, but were inauthentic.

“After the first incident, it seems like [administrators] were just planning to sweep the whole situation under the rug. It took the [school] newspaper and another incident for there to finally be a statement made condemning the behavior,” said the same member of African American Club.

“There’s a lot of disappointment expressed by students [who feel that] the conversation was reactive and not proactive. This all-school conversation happened in reaction to an event, and not as something that we do on a regular basis,” echoed Arado.

“I do think we are trying to be proactive. Stuff happens, and we can’t always predict what that’s going to be. There can be emergencies or incidents that no one can predict,” countered Hayes.

Staff members acknowledged that in such fraught situations, administrators must consider a number of factors, including discipline policy and student privacy.

“They have reasons why they approach things the way that they do.

They’re privy to a different range of information than I have access to, and they’re dealing with a wider range of stakeholders than I am,” said Arado.

Administrators, staff members, and students alike agreed that there is a need for substantial and sustained change in issues of race and equity at New Trier.

“In a place like this, it is so easy to avoid that work. You don’t even need to work to avoid it. You just go about doing your job. If you don’t define your job as having to seek out voices that aren’t at the table, you just don’t,” said Maxman.

Students emphasized that such work is necessary, no matter how unfamiliar or uncomfortable that work may be.

“It should be clear that racism exists at New Trier. When administrators choose to hide issues of race from the student body instead of addressing them head-on, they embolden students to act ignorantly and offensively. The past few months could not have sent a clearer message,” said senior and student body president Jacob Imber.

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