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Penfield School District standing by its decision to suspend athletes

10/3/05

[Penfield suspensions](#)

The Penfield school district is standing by its decision to suspend student athletes who allegedly took part in an underage drinking party at a home in Brighton. At the district's request, the Brighton police department has reopened its investigation into the issue. NEWS 10NBC has learned that Brighton police have begun interviewing dozens of students Monday to try to determine if any legal action can still be taken. At this point no arrests have been made and not a single citation was handed out the night the party was broken up but the school is making sure no one's getting off easy. Students at Penfield high school have a lot to say about the party that led to temporary suspensions for many of its student athletes. "I think they still should have let them play because not all the kids were drinking," said sophomore Lida Duyakiv.

Late last week the district learned the Brighton police department busted an underage drinking party on Fairhaven Road September 19th.

The district has a strict zero tolerance policy both on and off school grounds. "I was told that some of the students left once they heard of the drugs and alcohol and they're not going to know who left and who was there," said sophomore Bethany Weinratuv.

But students and parents say school officials are taking names and using that information to reprimand students.

"To use the kids to rat on each other is wrong and you're not really getting a truthful answer and your screwing up kids lives," said parent Marguerite Mckee.

Brighton police investigators tell NEWS 10NBC that as of Monday no arrests have been made and not a single citation was given out the night of the party.

Investigators also say alcohol was being served and somewhere between 150 and 250 students were at the party but kids scattered and no names were taken. And there's no proof, at this point, that the homeowner knew of underage drinking.

"If you go to a party that's that big and no citations are issued and kids leave and no one's questioned and everything is done after the fact then its mud in their face," said Mckee.

But the district isn't seeing it that way. In a statement released Monday school leaders say quote: "We have an obligation to not only uphold school policy but also the law".

10NBC E-Mail News

The district says it's a safety issue and their job to follow this through but parents like this say it's a little too late to find the truth and now innocent students may have to pay.

"Kids ought to be able to go to a party and know that if there's alcohol there and they leave they're not going to get in trouble for it," said Mckee.

Investigators say if they can prove the student's parent served the alcohol the charge could come with a year in jail and or a several thousand dollar fine but, given the time that's passed...it's going to be difficult to prove-and there is no charge in New York State for minors serving minors on private property.

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