

administrative guidelines

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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SELECTING DRAMA / MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

The purpose of the Port Washington-Saukville School District Administrative Guidelines for public performances of drama and musical productions is to insure the quality of these productions, provide a maximum educational benefit for all students participating, and to give a meaningful and entertaining experience to the community.

Musical or drama productions in the district are to be selected keeping in mind the following guiding principles:

- A. Productions should be chosen that meet the needs of the student body and the community at large.
- B. Productions should be chosen that would enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.
- C. Productions shall be provided from time to time that present various points of view on the issues of our times so that students are free to do critical thinking on their own.
- D. Productions may be provided that represent the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
- E. Sound educational judgment will be placed above personal opinion, prejudices, and special interests in order to assure a selection appropriate for the students of the district.
- F. Responsibility for the selection of the production rests with the musical or drama director. The principal, teachers, students, community members, and parents may be involved in the selection process. Prior to informing students about the production, the director must review the production selection with the principal and the activities director.
- G. The musical or drama director will use good taste and judgment, keeping in mind that it is a school production that is seen by the community at large, which may include an audience that has a range of younger aged members. If the production is to be presented in the spring, it must be selected on or before November 1. If the production is to be presented in the fall, it must be selected on or before August 1 prior to the school year.
- H. Tasteless or inappropriate material judged as unsuitable for a school production will be edited out of the production. Such decisions will be made by the director and are based on community values and how such material fits into the context of the entire production. Such edits must be done in accordance with paragraph (I). No liberties may be taken with the production (i.e. writing in parts, adding musical selections, altering the story line, etc.).

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- I. When using literary, musical, dramatic, choreographic, pictorial, and audiovisual works that are copyrighted, the district must comply with the provisions of the federal Copyright Act. Copyright owners hold exclusive rights to do and to authorize any of the following: To reproduce the work in copies or phonorecords; to prepare derivative works based on the copyrighted work; to distribute copies of the work by sale, rental, lease, or loan; to perform the work publicly; and to display the work publicly. Under the Copyright Act, to perform a work, means to “recite, render, play, dance or act it, either directly or by means of any device or process”. It is the responsibility of the drama director to obtain permission from the copyright owner, or representative, before using a copyrighted work for any public performance. Failure to do so may be considered an infringement of copyright.

Approved: 8/18/04