

policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

Student speech is protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Thus, students have the right to express themselves openly on school premises about matters of social, political, and religious importance. However, students may not express themselves in a way that causes a disruption of, or interference with, the orderly conduct of school activities or is inconsistent with the school's basic educational mission. Therefore, the school district reserves the right to designate and prohibit the distribution of publications and productions that do not follow the aforementioned limitations.

The Board of Education may sponsor student publications and productions as a means for students to learn, under adult direction, the rights and responsibilities of the press in a free society.

For purposes of this policy, "publications" shall include any audio, visual, or written materials such as tapes, banners, films, pamphlets, school sponsored submissions to the media, notices, newspapers, books, web pages, or other like materials. "Productions" shall include theatrical performances as well as impromptu dramatic presentations.

In sponsoring a student publication or production, the Board is mindful of the fact that the publication could be available to any student attending this school, and must, therefore, generally be suitable for all students.

Advertising is permitted in school newspapers, yearbooks, programs, etc. which are published by student organizations. ~~student organizations.~~ student publications and productions. The Board reserves the right to reasonably limit advertisements which fail to conform to Board policy or procedures. All advertisements must be approved in advance by the faculty advisor, or school principal.

The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit the distribution of publications and productions which are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Such unprotected materials are those which:

- A. are grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, religious, racial, or other delineated group;
- B. libel any specific person or persons;
- C. seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view over any other religious denomination, sect, or point of view;

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- D. advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material which may reasonably be believed to:
 - 1. constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of students;
contain obscenity or material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable students who may receive them;
 - 2. incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations.

The Board also prohibits publications and productions which:

- A. fail to identify the student or organization responsible for distribution;
- B. solicit funds for non-school organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board;
- C. promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election to the Board or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any election.

School sponsored publications and productions are part of the school curriculum.

All materials to be printed, performed, or electronically produced, are subject to review by the teacher advisor.

The decision to publish or produce something shall be made by the teacher advisor with appeal to the principal and Superintendent.

CONSTRUCTIVE GUIDELINES**STUDENTS**
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The objectives of school publications/productions in general are to:

- Communicate to those who are actively interested in the school -- the students, the teachers, the parents, the administration, the alumni, and other members of the school community;
- Provide vehicles for the expression of student thought and action and to act as catalysts for helping students realize goals and objectives;
- Create a wholesome school spirit and to support the best traditions of the school;
- Promote and encourage school-sponsored activities;
- Provide instruction and practice in useful and purposeful writing, speaking, artwork, photography, design and layout;
- Create a desire for the best in all forms of production, both in and out of school;
- Record in permanent form the history of the school;
- Promote cooperation among taxpayers, parents, the school, and its students.

In implementing Board Policy 4722, the following guidelines will be applicable:

- Excellence in writing and/or speaking will be sought and the ethics of responsible journalism and/or literary merit will determine what will be produced. Presentation of facts or ideas is to be based on careful research.
- Students shall have the right to express their views and attitudes on all issues with the proviso that the tenor of the statements shall not encourage disruption of normal educational processes.
- Language, pictures, music, or symbols that are obscene or libelous.
- Constructive criticism of the school, the District, other institutions, and/or social groups or practices is encouraged.
- A by-line shall accompany every printed article, story, or presentation.

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- Every printed article, story, or editorial will strive for fairness, accuracy and balance in reporting.
- School publications/productions shall not endorse any candidate for public office or take a political stand on any issue.
- Advertisements shall reflect the spirit of these guidelines. Advertisements shall not be accepted that encourage or advocate violence or disregard of the law; promote the sale of any substance the use of which is prohibited by law, such as drugs and alcohol or of any paraphernalia associated with sex or drugs or any item that would be offensive to a significant minority or the majority of the community, or items not in keeping with school purposes.
- All material to be printed, performed or electronically produced is subject to review by the advisors. Those who are denied approval for inclusion of materials in school publications/productions may appeal to the Principal or Superintendent whose decision will be final.
- All school publications shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism.

The duties of the faculty advisor shall be to:

- Serve in liaison capacity between the staffs of the publications and the faculty and administration;
- Establish criteria and standards by which students can assess the quality of their production and their techniques;
- Instruct members of the publication or production staffs in proper design, journalistic, literary and theatrical techniques;
- Advise, ~~suggest and edit~~ **make editing suggestions**, and ~~edit guide~~ **as necessary**;
- ~~Interpret Refer to~~ **Refer to** the foregoing guidelines as necessary, ~~in consultation with the principal~~.