ORION PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

I. DISTRICT GOALS

The Orion Performing Arts Center ("OPAC" or the "facility") is the largest performance space in the region. It is a tremendous asset, one which greatly enhances the District's capacity to cultivate interest in and appreciation for the fine arts in our schools and communities. OPAC gives students involved in the performing arts the opportunity to perform in a serious performance space, a vital part of the artistic experience. It also gives students, staff, local citizens, and visitors access to a broad array of performances, ranging from local productions featuring our own children to community theatre to professional productions.

The District intentionally makes OPAC available for use by groups independent of M.S.A.D. No. 75, both to promote the arts and to make the facility financially self-sufficient. The District expects OPAC to serve as a cultural beacon in the region, drawing in people to see high-quality performances by amateurs and professionals.

II. USES OF OPAC

The schools of M.S.A.D. No. 75 belong to the people of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham and derive substantial support from local taxes. The M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors (the "Board") has established a tradition of making school buildings and related facilities available to local community groups and individuals, and it continues this tradition with OPAC. To maximize use of this unique asset, the Board permits use of the facility by groups outside the District as well. In general, the facility is available for use when not otherwise committed for District purposes.

The Board evaluates whether proposed uses are appropriate in the context of the District's interests and the welfare of its students and reserves the right to accept, reject, or place conditions on proposed uses based on these considerations.

The fact that a group is permitted to use the facility does not in any way constitute the District's endorsement of the group's policies or beliefs. The District will not deny access to any organization because of the religious or political nature of the organization.

III. SCHEDULING PRIORITIES

1. Use of OPAC for District-based educational activities takes precedence over any other use of the facility, provided they are scheduled in accordance with procedures established by the Board. District-based educational activities include (a) performing arts, academic, vocational, and adult education, (b) District-sanctioned extracurricular activities including the performing arts, and (c) activities of organizations that exist solely for the

purpose of supporting school programs. Priority among District-based educational activities is assigned in the order they are listed above, and fine arts performances take precedence over other uses.

2. Secondary use of OPAC is shared with Merrymeeting Community & Adult Education.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. The Board has established the position of Auditorium Manager to administer its policies and procedures regarding use and management of OPAC. Decisions of the Auditorium Manager may be appealed to the District Superintendent, or Board of Directors, who shall make a final and binding decision on the matter.

2. Applications for use of OPAC are approved in accordance with this policy.

3. To facilitate scheduling and maximize use of OPAC, District-based educational activities requiring the facility during a school year are to be scheduled by June 10 of the prior school year. All other individuals and groups are prioritized based on the date of their completed application, with consideration given to the District's expected needs when applications for use during the subsequent school year are received before June 10 of the previous school year. Once an application is approved and rental obligations are met, the date is considered secured.

4. To maximize use of the OPAC auditorium for purposes of meeting District goals, no group or individual is granted exclusive use of any portion of the facility for a period to exceed three weeks or on an ongoing basis. The Auditorium Manager may provide approval for an organization to use the facility on an ongoing basis after taking into account the impact that this use will have on the availability of the facility to other organizations.

V. RESTRICTIONS

1. The Board does not allow use of OPAC by any group, for any activity that involves illegal acts. The Board does not allow use of OPAC for activities that are contrary to the District's educational interests or the educational welfare of its students.

2. The Board reserves the right to reject applications that pose a risk of damage to OPAC or associated facilities, including school buildings, grounds, or equipment.

3. Except with special permission, use of the facility must not occur during school hours and must not disrupt or interfere with other designated uses of the facility;

4. A fair Licensed Use fee, based on the approved fee schedule, must be paid for use of the facility.
5. All users must arrange security, if required, for their event, at their own cost. Users must make such arrangements directly with the Topsham Police Department.

CROSS REFERENCE: KFO-R – Orion Performing Arts Center: Community Use Application Procedures and Fees
https://www.link75.org/orion

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