

December 1, 2023

WCPSS Board of Education Members:

It is with great support from current and past Lufkin Road Middle School staff and community members that we propose naming our gym in memory of our former principal, Karen Sinderson, who passed away unexpectedly on November 21, 2022.

Mrs. Sinderson had a long career in education and served as principal of Lufkin Road Middle School for over ten years from 2012 until her passing in 2022. During this time, she always held her teachers and staff to high standards and kept her students' interests at heart. Mrs. Sinderson was a strong advocate for staff and students and also a passionate sports fan. She also knew the value and importance of a middle school having a functional gym space for all students.

Since Lufkin was converted into a school from an industrial facility, many elements of our school are unique, including our gym. From the school's opening in 1999, due to the structure of the gym, all "home" volleyball and basketball games were held at the Community Center and while they may have practiced at school, no home games were ever at LRMS. In 2017, Mrs. Sinderson and our former Athletic Director, Coach Rob Weidenburner, made it their mission to make Lufkin's gym equitable for all students, athletes and community members. After 2 years of tireless efforts, negotiating and fighting for the school, in the spring of 2019 the renovation was finally complete.

As Coach W said so perfectly, "The renovation created a new environment for the school and community because now all teams could feel that true home court advantage while providing an atmosphere for students to come and cheer them on. Karen lived for LRMS and wanted the best for all the students there. The gym was only a fraction of the things she did around that building and in the community to promote how amazing the Lightning was and still is."

Mrs. Sinderson was fully invested in Lufkin Road Middle School and the Apex Community as a leader and a driving force supporting staff and cheering on students whenever she could. She loved "big ideas" and anything that may help Lufkin. Apex Mayor Jacques Gilbert put it best when he said that Mrs. Sinderson "was always that person who linked people together. . .she loved our community and made sure her staff and students were a part of things". It is with overwhelming support that we hope that you consider this request to honor and remember our former principal and advocate.

Thank you for your consideration and your continuous support of our schools,

Current and Former Lufkin Road Middle School Staff

*Names listed on the following page*

### **Current LRMS Staff**

Cynthia Alcorn  
Shasta Turner  
Diana Lucas  
Jennifer Lucero  
Andrew Conner  
Colleen Mulrooney  
Nate Morris  
Jennifer McMullian  
Michael Fulton  
Lisa Adcock  
Margaret Butler  
Linda Gardner  
Jennifer Gibson  
Jay Kim  
Kati Wieth  
Michael Behrend  
Jason Brown  
Chris Nichols

Gloria E Ramos  
Andrea Johnson  
Anita B. Otey  
Christopher Shaw  
Heidi Rutland  
Gwendolyn Nesbit  
Lori Morene Grant  
Jennifer Hatchell  
Elizabeth DiBari  
Shailyn Smith  
Clarence Land  
Deborah Schmitt  
Caitlin McAveney  
Gloria Ramos  
Ashanti Solomon  
Poul Prip  
Concetta Nigro  
Anu Kalra

Morgan Cameron  
Donna Cameron  
Mary Breneman  
Kimberly Hess  
Manjari Parten  
Diana H Lucas  
Beth Barlow  
Bridget Ferguson  
Harvey Goodman  
Cyndee Carvalho  
Michelle Moore  
Gail Boettcher  
Deanna Nichols  
Tammy McGugan  
Glendy Rodriguez  
Elise Tortora  
Lauren Deviney

### **Former LRMS Staff**

Toni Segool  
Liana Jackson  
Clarissa M Green  
Lisa Bannister  
Autumn Davis  
Kelsey Peeler  
Jalisa Richardson  
Sydelle Snyder  
Courtney Jordan  
Victoria Hammonds  
Tiffany C. Cooper  
Rob Weidenburner  
Stacie McGuirt  
Kristen O'Connell

Erica Mentzer  
Emily King  
Debra Simerly  
Rona Atkinson  
Stephanie Eidson  
Diane Goodman  
Kelly Robertson  
Breana Yarbrough  
Pam Fisher  
Jacqueline L Huber  
Amy Goodine  
Emily Birtwistle  
Jennifer Zenick  
Sarah McKee

Haley Abene  
Allen Ellzey  
Pierce Moore  
Krisi Font  
Ryan Lee  
Brooke Perkins  
Jamie Valvano  
Mandi Lewandowski  
Taylor Evans  
Ronald Perrin  
Paulette Lassiter Thomas  
Audrey Fitzgerald Connell  
Victoria Sawyer