



REQUEST FOR NAMING RIGHTS FORM

Date of Request: July 24, 2025

Requested by: Trustee LaVonté L. Heard

Requested area to be named: J.W. Sexton High School Auditorium

Non-funded request in honor of: Verna Dorsey Holley

Funded or in-kind request donation in honor of: _____

Amount of donation (if applicable): _____

Facilities, or any portion thereof, managed by the Lansing School District Board of Education may be named for distinguished persons who have outstanding historical contributions to the school district, state or nation. Geographic or regional names may also be considered for new school buildings. These names should be clearly identifying, widely known, and recognized. All names should reflect the values of the community.

Nominations for Funded Naming: Verna Dorsey Holley

Groups or individuals may initiate a request to name a specific area/facility of a school for individual or business sponsors who are contributing substantially in-kind or by way of a cash donation for the benefit of a school or the school district.

The School Board shall retain the final authority to choose the appropriate name for facilities, or any portion thereof, managed by the School Board based upon the recommendation of the naming committee consistent with the values of the community.

Date Request Received by Naming Committee: _____

Request Approved On: _____

Signature of Naming Committee Representative: _____

Approved by School Board On: _____



Please explain below why the person should be honored (or attach supporting documents)

Verna Dorsey Holley joined the faculty as the first African American Choral Director in the school's history in 1978 after serving the Lansing School District as an elementary and middle school music teacher at Cedar Street School and Otto Middle School. She was hired by the late Dr. Clyde Carnegie. Under her leadership, she elevated the school's choral output bringing culturally relevant choral literature including African American Spiritual while maintaining a rich choral tradition that made the Sexton Choir a force in the community. Verna Holley continues to be a beacon for excellent music education in the Lansing Community. She will turn 90 years old in 2026 and still instructs students in Lansing and abroad in singing and piano lessons from her home. Ample information has been gathered by the History Makers.
<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/verna-holley-41>

Verna Holley is widely respected in the Lansing Community. This pay homage to her illustrious career and impact on many generations of students in Lansing.