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SEP 30 2020

Superintendent's Office
Guilford County Schools



Guilford County Schools

NAMING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES NOMINATION FORM

Please print or type all information; use additional sheets as necessary and attach exhibits or other documentation in support of this nomination. Refer to Guilford County Schools administrative procedure "Naming of Schools and School Facilities." (FDCA-P)

It is proposed that _____ Herbin-Metz Education Center Gymnasium _____
(describe facility)
be named _____ Roy James Sanchez III Gymnasium _____
(specific name)
in honor of _____ Roy James Sanchez III _____

according to the following criteria established by the Board of Education.

- A. If a geographic location or similarly site specific identifiers, such as road, community or the like, explain the reasoning and significance of the recommendation below:

Mr. Sanchez served as the Physical Education Teacher for students at Herbin-Metz for 6 years. On September 23, 2019, Roy lost his battle with cancer. His impact on students with significant disabilities can be felt across multiple counties in North Carolina. Mr. Sanchez was named the 2019 APE Teacher of the Year for North Carolina by APHERD. He also served as a volunteer for Buddy Break where many of our students attended monthly.

- B. If an individual, please attach a resume or vita and fully respond to the following criteria:

1. Has made an outstanding contribution to a school, the Guilford County Schools, the community, county, state, or the nation. (describe with documentation)

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2. Record of recognizable excellence in his/her respective field evidenced by a variety of outstanding accomplishments, awards and leadership and service roles in his/her profession, community, professional and civic organizations.
(describe with documentation)

Mr. Sanchez served as the Physical Education Teacher for students at Herbin-Metz for 6 years. On September 23, 2019, Roy lost his battle with cancer. His impact on students with significant disabilities can be felt across multiple counties in North Carolina. Mr. Sanchez was named the 2019 APE Teacher of the Year for North Carolina by APHERD. The GCS Board of Education recognized Mr. Sanchez during the September 10, 2019 School Board meeting for this accomplishment.

Edited 6/8/09 FDCA-P Nomination form

He also served as a volunteer for Buddy Break where many of our students attended monthly.

3. Has been a positive role model for others. (describe with documentation)

Mr. Sanchez received his administrative degree a few years ago and left the district for a couple of months as an assistant principal in another district. He was thankfully able to return to his position at Herbin-Metz. When I asked Roy why he came back to the district, he simply stated that he missed the kids. Mr. Sanchez always had a positive attitude and loved every child unconditionally.

4. Has exhibited values like honesty, integrity, respect, sense of fairness, concern for others, self-discipline, teamwork, dedication to work, etc. (describe with documentation)

Mr. Sanchez treated everyone he met with dignity and respect. Working with individuals with different abilities was a passion of his. This required much patience, the ability to work well with others including staff from multiple schools, and the willingness to learn. Roy Sanchez embodied all of these characteristics.

5. Has shown a commitment to excellence. (describe with documentation)

Mr. Sanchez had high expectations of his students and the staff who assisted him during PE class. His ability to teach students with significant cognitive and physical deficits how to play volleyball, kayak, walk on a balance beam, play basketball, as well as a number of other recreational games, was simply magical. He truly knew how to adapt the curriculum to meet students at their level. Mr. Sanchez was committed to life-long learning. He received the highest level certification for an Adapted PE teacher called CAPE when he returned to work last Spring after his initial diagnosis of cancer. That shows his commitment to excellence.

Signed: Sue Harvey on behalf of: Herbin-Metz Education Center
(group name, if any)

Print Name: Sue Harvey

Date: 1/29/2020

Contact Information:

Address: 400 O'Ferrell Street Greensboro Phone: (336) 333-7065
(area code)

Please note:

- Evidence of broad community support for this request should accompany this application.
- School and community groups/individuals making the nomination must agree to provide appropriate recognition, such as a plaque, portrait, or marker for the school.
- This form should be forwarded to:
Guilford County Schools
Office of District Relations
Attn: Facility Name Nomination
712 N. Eugene St.
Greensboro, NC 27401

December 2019
REF: Roy Sanchez

To Whom it May Concern,

Roy Sanchez is so very deserving of having the gymnasium at Herbin Metz School named for him. In doing so, not only will his name live on through the school and community, but also for his family and the many children and their families that he worked with while at the school.

I knew Roy Sanchez for a brief, but very full five (5) years as a fellow volunteer at Nathaniel's Hope Buddy Break; a respite program for parents that gives one-on-one structured play time to Very Important People (VIPs) who are special needs children. The program welcomes the VIPs and their siblings one (1) Saturday morning a month at West Market Street United Methodist Church in Greensboro, N.C. Roy always had a big heart for the kids at Buddy Break. He also always welcomed new volunteers and instantly made them feel like an integral part of the program. He was a truly inspiring man, even through the course of his cancer illness. He always found time and strength to give love, compassion and kindness to kids with special needs. One of my favorite memories of Roy is him running through the halls during Buddy Break always sporting a huge smile as he played a chase game with his VIP! Roy was a big kid at heart and had a tremendous love for special needs children.

December 2019
Ref: Roy Sanchez

He was a passionate advocate for kids with special needs and is so very deserving of having his name carried forward with the naming of the Herbin Metz gym. What a great remembrance and legacy to all the kids and their families that Roy so dearly loved, cared for, cherished and championed.

Roy's warm heart, giving nature and beaming smile always lit up any room he entered. It will be fitting that the Roy Sanchez gymnasium becomes a permanent fixture on the Herbin Metz campus. What a wonderful, lasting memory of such an equally wonderful man.

Sincerely and Best Regards,

Barbara W. Ramsey
103 Staunton Dr
Greensboro NC 27410-6064

7900 NC Highway 150 East
Brown Summit, NC 27214
sdbcpcpa@gmail.com

January 4, 2020

Sue Harvey
Principal
Herbin-Metz Education Center
400 O'Ferrell Street
Greensboro, NC 27405

RE: Naming of Herbin-Metz Education Center Gym for Roy Sanchez

Dear Mrs. Harvey:

We are writing you to express our strong support for the gymnasium at your school to be named in memory of Roy Sanchez.

We first met Roy at West Market Church almost three years ago when we were invited to church by other friends with special needs children. We have two kids, one of which has autism and is nonverbal. Our son, Micah, loved Roy. Roy was his buddy and Micah was always beaming when he saw Roy. Roy worked almost every Sunday with the special needs kids and young adults. He was one of the individuals instrumental in setting up this program where the parents of children with special needs could come to church, attend Sunday School, and go to other church functions. This provided such a huge opportunity for these parents to have some sense of "normalcy" and be able to interact with other parents. Roy also was one of the founders of the local Buddy Break program. Buddy Break is a nation program where one Saturday a month parents of special needs children can drop their special needs children and their typical siblings off for three hours of fun while the parents have some time to themselves.

Roy was tireless in his efforts for these kids and went out of his way week in and week out even when he was dealing with cancer. His passion and heart for families like ours poured into and really encouraged us.

I would like to relay two examples of the kind of man Roy was and why he would be worthy to have the gym named after him. First, at the church fall festival a couple of years ago Roy came up to me without any hesitation and offered to hang out with Micah and take him around to the different activities so I could take our 5-year-old daughter around. I didn't ask him and had no intention to because Roy was there with his family and kids. When he saw that Angie was working and I had both kids he offered to take 30 to 45 minutes of his family time and give it to us. Such a selfless act.

Another example was at the Special Olympics a couple of years ago. We were there with Micah and his school. I ran into Roy with some of his students from Herbin-Metz. He was so encouraging to those kids and worked hard with each one of them in their events and activities to ensure they had a wonderful experience. It was such an awesome site to see.

Roy was a prime example of service above self and he lived this day in and day out. He never met a stranger and was always ready to lend a hand. It is for these reasons and countless examples of his service to people with various challenges that we can think of no better tribute to his life and legacy of service to name the Herbin-Metz Education Center gymnasium after Roy Sanchez.

Thank you for your and the Board of Education's time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Doug & Angie Brown

To Whom It May Concern,

Our family first met Roy a little over four years ago when he was assigned to be our son Jett's buddy at Buddy Break. When we saw that mountain of a man, we knew he would be perfect to handle our rough and tumble son. It didn't take long for us to learn he was not just physically equipped to be our son's buddy, he was extremely compassionate as well. Over the years, our son formed a bond with Roy that he has had with few other people. They truly became "buddies" through Buddy Break. Jett's face would light up every time he saw Roy. He would try to crawl on his lap in church. He would pick on Roy, which is a big sign of affection from Jett. He truly loves Roy.

But it wasn't just our son that made a special connection with Roy. He connected with all kids and their families. All the kids in the Sunday school class gravitated to Roy. We were able to see Roy shine as a PE teacher. Roy told us more than once how much he cared about those kids and would say about his PE class, "When they're all together, they're just like regular little boys having PE." We can't help but think he had a lot to do with that. While his compassion and love of children earned him North Carolina's Adapted PE Teacher of the Year, he was not just a PE teacher. He played guitar for those kids. He was a friend and mentor to those kids. He will be truly missed by everyone who came in contact with him: students, fellow teachers, friends, and family.

Because he has done so much for so many, we should memorialize him by naming the Herbin-Metz gymnasium in his honor.

Sincerely,

Chris & Allison Hocker

December 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in reference to a friend and colleague of mine who recently passed away, Mr. Roy Sanchez.

Roy was an Adapted Physical Education Teacher for Guilford County Schools for many years. He has served children with special needs with deep sensitivity, a happy heart and an amazing smile. He truly believed students with disabilities should be given the same opportunities as our typical students. Roy could be seen cheering on our students, wrapping them in huge hugs for doing their best and making them feel like they were all winners every time.

Roy and his family were also active members in my church, West Market Street United Methodist Church. He was on the board for our Nathaniel's Hope Buddy Break, a monthly time where parents with children with special needs can drop their children for fun and play while the parents get a much needed 4 hour break. Roy's presence was huge. He buddied up with a former student of mine each month and they bonded like something I have never seen. This boy was mostly non-verbal with an AU diagnosis. He exhibited challenging behaviors due to communication concern but Roy was able to meet this child on another level. Roy's heart was as big as a lion. He was gentle, loving and kind to all kids but he had a special place in that huge heart for students with significant disabilities.

Losing Roy to cancer leaves an enormous hole in our Buddy Break as I am sure it does the same in the schools he taught in. It is for this reason that I am writing to you to consider naming the Gymnasium at Herbin Metz after a most dedicated, loving and caring man who has made quite an impact in the special needs community.

Sincerely,
Colleen Cox
Special Education Coordinator
Our Lady of Grace Catholic

School


December 11, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the honor of being a volunteer at Buddy Break at West Market Street Methodist Church for approximately one year. During that time, I met Roy Sanchez, another volunteer. However, to say that Roy was "just another volunteer" is quite the understatement. Roy helped new volunteers tremendously to feel confident in their abilities, help if there were any issues, and teach them simply to have fun with the children. To watch Roy interact with the children who have special needs, was a joy! Every family and child wanted Roy to be their buddy as he always had a smile for everyone, was a ton of fun, and had a special way of communicating with all of the children.

I feel that the gymnasium being named, in memorial, for Roy Sanchez at Herbin-Metz Education Center would honor an incredible man whose passion was to serve the children of this community, selflessly.

Thank you for your consideration.



Amy Swain

Philip Weikel
3601 Waldenbrook Rd
Greensboro, NC 27407

December 11, 2019

Guilford County Schools
Board of Education
Greensboro, NC

To whom it may concern:

I would like to support the naming of the Herbin-Metz gymnasium in honor of former teacher Mr. Roy Sanchez. I could not think of a more deserving person for this honor. Roy served the community in so many ways both as an employee with Guilford County and his tireless volunteer efforts with the special needs community.

Our family met Roy at West Market United Methodist Church where he volunteered in both the Buddy Break monthly respite program as well as the Special Needs Sunday school class. Our special needs son David lit up every time he got a chance to be with Roy. Roy had a unique way of bringing joy to David with his fun, caring and energetic approach he took with all the children. Roy was a great leader in this way and provided us as parents with a great sense of comfort and ease that David was in great hands when he was not in our care.

It was such a great loss for our community when Roy passed. It would be very fitting for his name to live on so that people will be reminded of his spirit, passion and dedication he exhibited in all of his professional and volunteer roles. I could not think of anyone more deserving than Roy for such an honor. Thank you for considering Roy and allowing his family to know how much he meant to the community by giving him this well deserved recognition.

Sincerely,

Philip Weikel

Hi Sarah,

As a volunteer for Buddy Break, I wanted to let you know how deeply I miss Roy Sanchez. He was such an inspiration to me every month I had the privilege to work with him. His ease and confidence with our special children was so infectious and I know how much his volunteering meant to his special VIP each month. There was a unique bond between those two, but Roy was also available to help us with many of our other VIPs when their need arose, as it frequently does. He was a gentle giant and so passionate about his VIPs. Roy gave so much to the children he worked with and was such a role model for all of us who had the opportunity to work along side him.

He was so patient, so calm, so gentle with these kids and I honestly feel he had as much fun (if often not more fun!) working with these kids each month, especially when water was involved! He is deeply missed but he left a lasting legacy for all of us and the impact he left for his co volunteers but most importantly the families he so selflessly served will be remembered forever.

Kindest regards,
Cindy

and provide feedback when needed.
I consider it an honor to have
known him, worked with him,
and to call him a friend.

Sincerely,
Tony Brown
12/10/19

To whom it may concern:

As a volunteer for Buddy Break
for the past few years, Reg was
one of the most professional, kind,
and generous people there. Time
and again, I watched his strategies
and techniques in dealing with his
special needs kids. I would use
some of the same strategies with my
special needs kids and they always
proved to be beneficial for estab-
lishing a positive rapport. Reg was
always available to answer questions

January 27, 2020

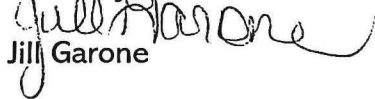
To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write this letter to share about an amazing co-worker who I had to privilege to work with for many years. Roy James Sanchez III was a man like no other I had ever known. His dedication to the students at Herbin-Metz Education Center was apparent every day. He loved and believed in his work, his co-workers but especially the special students that he encouraged and influenced daily. Roy had the personality and patience that could calm any student who were exhibiting the most significant behavior issues. Roy was always willing and eager to assist when needed and always did this while smiling and laughing.

During his PE classes, Roy made every activity fun and exciting. His ability to adapt lessons made it possible for each student regardless of their disability to be successful and have fun. When Roy got sick he never let it interfere with his love for the students and teaching. He continued to not only fight the disease but most of all he fought to make each student succeed in everything they attempted. Even when I visited Roy in the hospital his thoughts and concerns were with the staff and students at Herbin-Metz Education Center.

Inspiring, caring, funny, admired and respected are just a few words that describe the man so fondly remembered as "Mr. Roy". Having the gym at Herbin-Metz Education Center dedicated and named after Roy James Sanchez III will help us all remember and honor the man who is so loved and respected by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Garone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jill Garone

To whom it may concern,

Roy Sanchez was a special person in many ways. I was lucky enough to work with him in several settings. In addition to having a job with students who have disabilities, he volunteered for several years both at Buddy Break as well as in our special needs Sunday school class. Buddy Break is once a month opportunity for families who have kids with special needs and their siblings both to give the parents a break and to give the kids one-on-one attention while having tons of fun. At church we had a Sunday School class for children with disabilities as well as a second class for typical kiddos where a few of our special needs kids would attend. Roy helped with both classes, he felt like he needed to give back. At church and at Buddy Break Roy developed an amazing bond with all of the kids but one in particular who had the potential to be a handful, in various ways. To see the child light up not only when he saw Roy but even at the mention of his name, was simply a joy to watch unfold and develop. This young man was mostly nonverbal, yet he and Roy had little difficulties communicating. Often as Roy would appear you'd see the young man, who was no small boy, climbing him like a tree to be first of the other kids and to get his full attention. He tried to fit in his lap long after he actually fit in his lap and that was something he only did with family. It was obvious there was a true bond between them and that each loved the attention of the other. Given that he has Autism there were st times communication frustrations as well as simply hard days that Roy would be the first to volunteer to handle or step in to help with as needed. Roy could handle most challenging situations with a calm ease that usually resolved whatever the issue may have been, even if it meant lots of walking as a means to deescalate.

At Buddy Break, Roy would work with his one-on-one but while doing so he was able to help other volunteers learn how to better work with their special needs child, try to encourage them or simply put them at ease. He also loved playing with all of the kiddos, not just the one assigned to him. Roy had the best of intentions but sometimes while he was helping others his one-on-one, who has quite a sneaky streak and could see an opportunity with ease would, seemingly quicker than the speed of light, turn a small container of waterballs over, dash to turn off the lights, throw a handful of balls or jump in or dump any water he could find all over himself or the floor (fully clothed no less). It became a joke you could almost watch happen in slow motion with lots of laughs afterwards. He was always a good sport even at his expense.

Roy had the potential to put people at ease. It was obvious he loved what he did for a living and was thankful for the opportunities in that field. At Buddy Break and at church we had many activities and lessons to engage the kids and, in turn and over time, we were able to watch them grow and develop. Roy was always thinking and planning how to adapt some of the things we did at church that got a particular reaction in his own classroom. He was always trying to figure out how to connect and get something from each kiddo with whom he worked no matter the setting or their disability. Over the years I was able to see him do that in our classroom at church with each child. And boy did they not only love him but in a 1-1 setting respond really well to him,

During the time Roy was going through cancer treatments and in and out of the hospital I think he was surprised to learn how much the kids missed him and asked about him. I don't think he realized his impact on the kids, in addition to the rest of us. However, I think he did realize how much he needed the kiddos and how they helped to remind him of the everyday blessings in his life (particularly his wife and kids who he always spoke of and who he loved and was immensely

proud of). During the cancer treatments and his time absent from Sunday School, we would send videos of the kids calling his name, waving or singing or we would make cards for his hospital room. When he was able to return to our class even just for a bit he was actually able to see their genuine excitement. It was then, I think, he was able to see, based on their reactions, much to his surprise how much they missed and needed him too.

Roy was quite humble and I think would be stunned as to all of the wonderful things people have said about him since his passing. He was fortunate to simply have a gift given by God. His caring for kids with disabilities seemed more of an instinct, something that came naturally. I believe Roy realized these blessings and in turn inspired him to simply be a better person. They gave him joy.

Naming the gym for Roy would be an honor to him and well deserved by all who knew him. To have anyone in the future ask who Roy Sanchez was and to be able to always share his compassion story would be an inspiration to anyone.

Sincerely, Sarah Gray

Previous Director of Bidy Break, Sunday School teacher
and a retired special educator.

Marion B Hosey
711 Simpson Street
Greensboro, NC 27401
443-534-0449

December 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I heartily endorse the proposal to name the gymnasium at Herbin-Metz Education Center to honor the memory of Roy Sanchez. Roy was a consummate special educator who touched many lives at Herbin-Metz and other schools in which he served. He had a sincere love of children and an appreciation of the strengths of each child with whom he came in contact. He was unflappable and able to defuse any situation in or out of the classroom.

Several parents spoke at Roy's funeral earlier this year. Each spoke about Roy's impact on the quality of life of their children. He seemed to understand each child's needs and the approach necessary to allow the child to be him or herself in a safe and supportive environment. The parents spoke of how much their children loved Roy and appreciated his care and concern for them.

I had the privilege of working with Roy at West Market Church in the Nathan's Hope Buddy Break program. Roy always worked with the most challenging children, giving them one-on-one attention yet allowing them as much freedom as they could handle. He took delight in their accomplishments and encouraged them to try new activities. Yet he was sensitive to their needs and was quick to remove them from any situation which would increase their stress and push them into inappropriate behavior. Roy clearly loved working with the children and spoke with great joy about his work as an Adaptive PE teacher.

Roy had the opportunity to move out of the classroom into an administrative position. He even tried a job as an administrator in another county. But the kids drew him back. Even during his last year when he was very ill with cancer, he spoke eagerly about getting well enough to return to work.

I can think of no one more deserving of the honor of having the Herbin-Metz gymnasium named for him. I hope that his name on the gymnasium will remind teachers and students of Roy's skills, compassion, sense of humor, kindness, and dedication to the special needs students whom he lovingly nurtured.

Yours truly,

Marion B Hosey

To Whom It May concern:

Hello, my name is William B. Ellison, a retired United Methodist Pastor.

I am writing this letter in support of a grass-roots effort to name the gym at Herbin-Metz after a wonderful teacher, parishioner, co-volunteer and friend.

I first came to know Roy Sanchez when both he and I volunteered in a wonderful national program, called "Buddy Break." Our Church, West Market St. United Methodist Church, began to sponsor a chapter of this program five or six years ago under the leadership and direction of Sarah Gray. It is designed to give relief to parents of children who are challenged in a variety of ways requiring constant supervision and care. Not only is this care-giving exhausting, but also so demanding that other members of a family and other needs of a family may go without the attention they need. The program seeks to take a part of that load away from the care-givers for a few hours once a month and give them a break.

The other side of the program is the great opportunity it gives volunteers to identify and connect with a child for a morning of one-on-one fun, challenging interaction and friendship. Thus, you have "Buddy-break."

I'm not sure how many years Roy Sanchez volunteered in this program, but I know that he was there every session for the two years that I volunteered. I watched him with the kids. I was amazed at the rapport and connection he made with each child he was given. I also noticed how he genuinely seemed to enjoy his time with the children. It was not a task; it was not a notch in his belt indicating that he had given several hours volunteering. It was a genuine love for the children and a real sense of empathy for the parents and care-givers. It was a joy to be with him as a co-volunteer and to see him work so well and so joyfully.

I got to know Roy further as one of his Pastors. When he was first hospitalized and received the dreaded diagnosis, a form of cancer which eventually took his life, I could see the fear and dread in his eyes and feel it in his voice, but I never heard him express concern for himself. It was always that he wanted to live for his wife, his children, his friends and for those wonderful children that he taught as a part of his professional vocation. It was only then that I learned about his status as a teacher of children with special needs, and some of the honors he had received for his work.

He didn't tell me about the good work he was doing, I read about it in the paper and heard other professionals tell about how much he cared and professional he was in the good work he did for so many.

Roy died, but he died with dignity, faith and hope because he knew that love overcomes the powers of darkness and light shines in. Today there is light shining in the lives of many children and their parents because of the person and work of Roy Sanchez.

It is for that reason that I recommend and support the effort to name a facility which enables and symbolizes the activities that can bring life and health to young bodies and enhance the human spirit by the work done there. Roy would be proud to be recognized in that way.

Most Sincerely,

Reverend William B. Ellison