



Lapeer Community Schools

ADMINISTRATION & SERVICES CENTER

250 Second Street, Lapeer MI 48446

phone (810) 667-2401 fax (810) 667-2411

[www.lapeerschools.org](http://www.lapeerschools.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

**DATE:** December 5, 2008  
**FROM:** Jim Smith, Communications Specialist  
(810) 538-1638  
**RE:** Middle school to reflect name of two school "pillars"

---

Two giants of the Lapeer school system and the community beyond will be linked in the naming of the new middle school at the Woodside site.

In naming the new Rolland-Warner Middle School, the Board of Education recognized the mammoth contributions of Doris Rolland and the late Ronald C. Warner, two long time educators and community volunteers.

Multiple nominations were received for both individuals and all cited the high moral character and enduring lessons and legacy of both people.

"We appreciate the huge interest of the community in this process and believe both Doris Rolland and Ron Warner are very deserving of this honor," said Superintendent Debbie Thompson. "Rolland-Warner Middle School will be not just a tribute to two wonderful people, but a living legacy to both."

Doris Rolland was a teacher and principal at the Woodside School at Oakdale, the site of the new school, as well as residential unit director at Oakdale for all school children, two emotionally impaired buildings and three research units and staff of 300. She was also director of special education for ten years at the Oakdale facility and directed a program for 750 severely mentally impaired students and a staff of 200.

Rolland served on numerous volunteer, appointed and elected boards. In addition to her years as a Lapeer Board of Education member (1972-1975), she served two terms on the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners (1992-1995), served on the Lapeer Hospital Board, Great Teacher Foundation Board, Zonta Board, the Mental Health Board, Courthouse Restoration Board, the Mayfield Township planning commission and many other church and local boards and commissions, as well as serving as a Suncrest auxiliary member and Mayfield Elementary PTC officer.

"Doris Rolland is an accomplished leader in the field of education," said Gary and Josie Easton in their nomination. "She is an inspiring individual with lots of energy and enthusiasm."

Lapeer Community Schools is a dynamic community organization embracing our students with a quality learning environment, developing independent and confident learners for the future.

Doris lives in Mayfield Township with her husband of 55 years, Burns Rolland. The couple has three children and two grandchildren.

Ron Warner retired as Lapeer Community Schools' assistant superintendent on January 1, 1984 after a 41½ -year education career that began with a 2-year teaching job in Almont. Following that job he took a job as a vocational agricultural teacher in Lapeer and stayed with the District in a number of teaching and administrative positions.

Warner was instrumental in the annexation and consolidation of the former one-room schoolhouses into the District as it is comprised today. He also served as principal, director of transportation, director of personnel and instruction and oversaw much of the construction of the elementary schools.

In addition to his school work, Warner was a Boy Scout leader, a 4-H leader, an American Red Cross volunteer, a member of the Good Fellows, a Lapeer Regional Medical Center volunteer, a United Way volunteer and was active in his church and educational associations.

Warner was named: 4-H Leader of the Year; Lapeer Friend of 4-H in Michigan; Lapeer County Press Teacher of the Year and Lapeer Chamber of Commerce Male Citizen of the Year.

"As an educator, principal and assistant superintendent who devoted over 40 years to the Lapeer Community Schools, Ronald C. Warner deserves the naming of a school in his honor," said William Valley in his nomination. "He was an extraordinary mentor to hundreds of Lapeer teachers and administrators. His advice was golden and always on target. His value to the school district was immeasurable. He was the best 'boss' I ever had!"

Warner died June 24, 2008 at the age of 88. He and Abi, his wife of 61 years, had three children, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and four step great-grandchildren.

Both of the new school's namesakes were former Lapeer Area Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" recipients. Doris Rolland in 1983 and Ronald Warner, along with his wife, were selected in 1999.

The Board of Education made calls from the meeting to Doris Rolland and the family of Ronald Warner to notify them of the honor Thursday night.

The two-month process resulted in the submission of a number of names, including Miami Dolphins offensive lineman Jake Long, the late banker Rod Parsch who is a member of the Lapeer Alumni Hall of Honor, Dr. Marion Rood, Dr. Jules L. Reinhardt, Roy L. Spencer, as well as current and former administrators and staff, such as current superintendent Debbie Thompson, Lynch Principal William A. Slater, Henry Smith, Jim Jessop, W. Carl Shifflett, W. Gordon Hall, and Jim Black.

There were at least three nominations that had geographic links, South Middle School, Lapeer Woodside Middle School and Woodland Middle School. One nomination suggested a combination name of Warner Woods Middle School.

###