

[Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>](https://commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org)

Our community has been attacked for no reason- please end this with a community vote

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 5:23 PM

Our wonderful community has been attacked for absolutely no reason. The Dixie School District, all of the parents, volunteers, and our **children** deserve an apology for this absurd and politically motivated circus that began when a school board member blindsided the community she is supposed to represent. It has been an all out media campaign against the Dixie School District since she went on Channel 7 News in August, 2018 to announce that the Dixie School District name was racist. Since then, the Dixie Elementary sign has been vandalized, people have been called white supremacists who disagree with the name change, neighbors have been publicly shamed on social media, and friendships have ended. This entire thing is toxic and disgusting. Due to the level of hate, threats of lawsuits, public shaming, cyber bullying, and personal harassment in the community, I am *not* comfortable engaging in any public commentary, nor am I comfortable attending any "**community forums**" without sheriff involvement. Many feel the way I do. Any community forum should not allow outside media, or people who do not have children in the school district or who do not live in the district. We need to bring this to an end and have a community election. Let the registered voters and tax payers in the school district have a voice, and end this now. There are plenty of causes and people that need real help in Marin. Changing a name does nothing to benefit anyone in a real and tangible way, and will show our children and community that bully tactics do indeed work. Thank you for your time- let's get back to focusing on our kids and their education!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903

Christine Walsh
104 Casa Verde Cir
Petaluma, Ca. 94954

January 27, 2019

Dear Jason Yamashiro and the Dixie Board Members,

As many of you are aware my husband [REDACTED] is a recent retiree after 40 years working as Director of Operations for the Dixie School District. He is also a Dixie School District alumni. In addition he accepted with great honor and pride an Excellence in Education Award bestowed to him by the former Superintendent Thomas Lohwasser and Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke.

We are writing to you because we are disheartened by what is taking place to lobby and convince people that the name of the District we all love and respect represents something negative. This is simply false rhetoric. This negative message and agenda appear to be politically motivated by a self-serving, toxic insider who sits on your board. These efforts take focus off the excellent work being done to educate the students. The smear campaign to tarnish and erase the connection the community has with the name Dixie School District is truly shameful.

Dixie School District is a distinguished school. Why would anyone want to remove than name brand recognition for personal and political gain? Dixie is synonymous with only positive association.

Additionally, has anyone done any cost analysis of what would be involved to change the name across the school district? All of these funds should continue to be put towards school programs and benefiting the needs of the students. Not erasing the history of the name that makes Dixie School District truly one of the best in the state.

Please do everything in your power to main this history of Dixie School District.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

re: Dixie name change

1 message

re:Stone,spnc.casir@yahoo.com
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 6:58 PM

This comment is being sent to the Dixie School Board in order to share the opinions of at least this Dixie family:

Dear Board Members,

I'm saddened at the valuable planning, debate and decision making time that has been lost to the name change issue. This topic neither assists our Dixie Schools in their mission nor furthers an already limited school budget.

In a democracy we let the people speak with their voices and their votes. The only people in a democracy who do not wish to have a democratic process are those that know they do not have the support of a majority and/or those who, in fact, do not believe in it to begin with. Demagoguing is not democratic. In-fact, demagoguery is the antithesis of democracy.

If for no other reason than to teach our kids how a democracy works, please make sure to have a community vote on the Dixie name change issue. I look forward to voting and using this vote as an example to my children, both who are in Dixie Schools, of how democracy works in our community.

I urge you all to listen to the voices within our community before making any decisions that effect OUR children.

Thank You,

[\[Redacted Signature\]](#)
[Redacted Name and Address]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 7:29 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To our Dixie School Board of Trustees,

I have inadvertently become intertwined in this name change debate far more than I would have ever imagined.

Let me start by saying, **I am not a political person**. I do not ever involve myself with political issues because quite frankly, I feel it is a waste of time to try to convince others of something they do not believe. However, since September when I saw our school district on the news and then made a comment on Next Door forum, I felt the urge to attend the school board meeting to be better informed. What I found was an **organized group of people** speaking to the school board as if it was an issue on the agenda (even though it was not). They did this for months, many of the same people saying very much of the same words.

I found myself amongst a random group of community members that **had nothing else in common except our agreement that the way this topic was brought about was unjust**. Whether we wanted the name changed or not, we did not feel that the methods used by this group was appropriate. **Unprepared**, I spoke up at this board meeting with the comment that there are many more pressing areas of education to focus on and that if a name change should be required, it should be left to the district residents to vote. After that meeting, I asked a friend, Lala Luciano, if she had any thoughts on this issue, any experiences of racism that pertained to this district. She told me in September that she would **remain neutral** on the topic and had nothing further to discuss regarding her feelings on the name. I also reached out to Bruce Anderson, to see if there were some instances of racism that was driving him to lead this name change initiative. He said, although he had experienced racism in general, it was simply the name that he had issue with and **not the community**.

I had no idea that months later, in January, Lala would leave the district and then join the Change the Name movement, and that I would then be attacked by being called racist and insensitive because of a **post** I put on the Next Door forum in **December** (where it was **NEVER flagged or reported** for being inappropriate). The post was taken out of context a month after posting and placed on her personal Facebook site, a violation of my privacy as I'm not even on Facebook. In my comment, I displayed my belief that Dixie as a word is harmless to mainstream society or else it would not be found so easily in products, names and places. I truly believe the name of this school district was not meant to taunt or jeer at people of color. If I thought it did, I would be the first to say let's change it.

Currently though, if a **person of any color** says they would rather the name remain or even question the inconsistent outrage over the word, it is the Change The Name tactic to call them out by saying they are racist, ignorant, and/or insensitive. This same post on Facebook calling myself ignorant and racist because I dared to point out that Dixie Fry is a brand of chicken seasoning sold at the local Safeway, this same post by Lala Luciano was tagged by Noah Griffin, Bruce Anderson and amongst others, school board member Marnie Glickman. **I tried to reach out to the people who slandered and called me racist on social media, asking to speak privately to work this out, but to date, have not heard back**. The slander hurt because I felt that the reason I was called out was not because these people believe I'm actually racist, but because I was **made into an example** for this movement in order to obtain their desired outcome to silence those who are not in line with changing the district name.

This argument has gotten so out of hand, and although I've been volunteering for years in the school district, now after being harassed on social media, **I do not feel comfortable to step foot on campus and I have been worried about my kids who go to school in this district in case other parents are telling their kids what to think of mine due to my opinion on this topic**. I have told this fact to my school's principal. It is outrageous that my kids are seeing that this is what adults will argue about "over" their education. I long for the day that the conversation returns to productive topics about how to spend the very limited time and money on topics that will enrich the children's education.

Discussing what people feel when they hear the word 'Dixie' is something that should be done outside of school board meetings. We need a vote to see what the community will support because without the support of the community, our kids don't have a chance in this public school education system. If the argument is to be more inclusive of others, I have to say this name change initiative has sorely **missed the mark**. The emphasis on race and people of color has made many of my friends who are not of the dominant ethnic group so uncomfortable. It makes it seem as if **the value of**

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Dixie Name Change

a person's opinion is based on a person's skin tone. Isn't that counter productive to what we are trying to accomplish in the name of **equity and inclusion**?

Regardless my opinion of the topic of racism or race in Marin, or even my thoughts on the gross unfairness of this name change debate, I feel it is the board's duty to find out what the community wants. The previous seasoned board voted in November 4-1 to hold an advisory vote if funds were available in 2020 in order to canvas community opinion. It would make sense since all the candidates back in October and November agreed to uphold that advisory ballot if it was passed. To change opinions now, 2 months later, would signal to the community that promises to the public would not be upheld in light of extreme public scrutiny. With the name change group inviting media to our town and to paint our town as ugly for putting up a fight against political nonsense, I do not envy the board's position. I greatly respect that this is a volunteer position for each of you to do some real good in our community. I hope you will **listen to the community that elected you.** I believe it is never too late to **start listening.** There are emotions on both side of this issue, however I am asking you to please don't be swayed in your decision solely by yours or anyone's emotions.

Respectfully,


San Rafael CA 94903

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board:

Thank you for your service to our community and our children. I am writing to submit my comments regarding changing the name of the district. Specifically, I respectfully ask the Board to reject the name change petitions because it hasn't been given the time, information, tools, processes or the mandate to make a decision with such profound impacts to the community. For example:

- Name change activists took the community and the Board by surprise, and timed their sneak attack to exploit a Board in transition with two newly elected Trustees.
- There were no procedures in place to air community concerns, so Board meetings were monopolized by repetitive, emotionally-wrought speeches and video camera paparazzi.
- Name change advocates misused an obscure rule in the education code to carpet bomb the Board with multiple petitions that failed to even explain the reason for changing the name.
- The Board was unprepared to accept the petitions and allow adequate time for community hearings and comment period.
- The Board did not have time to conduct a rigorous analysis of the financial impacts of a name change, including legal costs associated with having counsel present at recent Board meetings and defending the Board against accusations of Brown Act violations by Ms. Glickman.

Finally, none of the Board members were elected on a name-change platform, and all told the Marin Independent Journal last Fall that they favored a community discussion and decision. That indeed is the right decision for our community and our children.

Sincerely,



San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 10:12 PM
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear Dixie School Board,

Please stop the arguing of the Dixie Name Change. I am an 18 year old at TL and a former student in the School District. My family moved from Novato to Lucas Valley because of the quality education that the Dixie School District would provide for my brothers and I. I want the Dixie name to remain because it has great meaning to this community. This has been an awful situation and our neighborhood is mad at the people who came in here and did this. I don't know anyone who wants to change the name. Please stop these people from further destroying what we have here.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Blue Blossom Ct.
San Rafael, CA
94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep Dixie as Dixie

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org


Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 10:05 PM

Dear Dixie Board and Superintendent,

I would like to start out this letter by thanking you for all of your time and energy and putting up with this ridiculous name change situation. I have so much respect for Brad, Alyssa, Megan, and Brooks.. I am just sorry that this is what your task is at hand. It is my hope that you can get back to work on doing what is important, making sound decisions for what's best for educating the children of our community!

It is time I voice my opinion to you!!!! I am beyond disgusted by what is happening in our community. I grew up in Lucas Valley and proudly wore "Dixie" hats and clothing throughout my life while I traveled the world and nation, including the Southern States, who have a deep and dark history with the Confederacy. Never once did I think that I was offending people by wearing something that displayed a name such as "Dixie." I would have never worn anything that would have possibly done that. My kids have also proudly displayed their Dixie Wear, Dixie soccer uniforms and Dixie All-Star hats around California and beyond. We have never once been approached, shamed or been looked out in disgust. This is preposterous that this group of "Change the Name" people could come into our community and fracture everything we stand for. The calculated actions of this group are obvious. Clearly there is money and connections behind each move they make. I am in disbelief that they would involve the media and be supported primarily from outside source. They have stirred up so much stress among a peaceful community. How dare them! What are they gaining? Notoriety? What are they doing for our schools and children? ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!!!!!! It is so tragic and disturbing.

I have trouble expressing how disgusted I am to hear that people are being accused of being "Racist" or being "White Supremacists" because they want to restore the "Dixie" name. It is appalling that people are afraid to voice their opinions for fear of being labeled. In fact, one of my girlfriends that attended Dixie School with me from K-8 has been called all of these names and more. I personally witnessed her during her college years, graduate school years and when she lived out of the area, making it a priority to volunteer and teach minority children. She is a quality person who has the best interest of EVERYONE from EVERY RACE. Now, because she is involved with the "We Are Dixie" group, she is being slandered with these types of insults and possibly sued. Unbelievable! I am an educator who has worked with minorities, as well and volunteered in many situations, am I a racist because I think it is ridiculous to associate "Dixie" with the Confederacy and change the name? Enough is enough. Why isn't all of this energy being directed toward our schools? Maybe this group should be looking at the racial discrimination that is really occurring in real time in Marin City and the segregation in the Sausalito School District? Why isn't anyone in this group taking time to work on that problem? Not enough publicity? It's disgusting! Threatening lawsuits? Really? What is going on? Changing the name at this point would benefit no one and would continue to divide our community. We need time to heal and approach this with education as the top priority. Then our community will be back to being labeled as a great place for kids and the Dixie School District will return to having a reputation based on the high standards for educating children, not serving people with political agendas. Thank you.


San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

The Dixie name issue - please stop it

1 message

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 7:30 PM

To the Board and Superintendent for the Dixie School District,

I am a resident on [REDACTED], two blocks from Dixie Elementary. We moved here eight years ago when our children were 5 and 3 years old, so that our kids could attend the Dixie School. Although we had lived in Mill Valley for 6 years previously, we were drawn to the close knit community, the great weather, the side-walks, and what we understood to be a very supportive and inclusive neighborhood. We were also happy to see that the district appeared to have more diversity (especially at Vallecito and Miller Creek) than Mill Valley. In the time we have lived here, we have welcomed many other new families to the school at our home - whether they were white, asian, indian or black. Their skin color made no difference to us and in fact was not even a passing thought until the Dixie name was raised 6 months ago.

As a foreigner (I am from Africa), I have no attachment to the name, but I have noticed over the years a very fond and very strong emotional attachment held by many families who have raised children here, and now whose grandchildren attend the schools. No one seemed to know, or quite frankly care about the origins of the name and to most people who had lived here for a generation, the name has come to mean a loving, kind and inclusive community. Not one person ever mentioned that the term 'Dixie' was strange, or prevented them from wanting to move to the district. I heard consistently from a black friend of mine with children in the district, how she had never felt more welcomed and care for than in this community. While no community is perfect, this particular one was not thought of as being discriminatory or racist at any time in its over-100 year history.

All of this changed when one specific Board Member, with very clear political ambitions, decided to find something to 'hang her hat on'. A handful of people (some not even living in this community) approached her and shared their concern about the origins of the name, based on an apparent memory from a grand-daughter of James Miller (who in fact never met her grandfather, since he died before she was born). Instead of professionally presenting to them that the name means something very positive to most people and that there are many people (around 30,000 in the US - 8000 of them being African Americans) named Dixie and that they should choose to think positively, rather than negatively about the name, she instead decided to use this as her claim to media and political fame.

So, what has happened in the last 6 months? Instead of involving the community in a thoughtful discussion using Next Door or whatever other means is at their disposal, Ms Glickman contacted the media and has used her seemingly limitless funds to shine a very negative spotlight nationally on this small community, probably the most liberal in an already very liberal, progressive county. She and her husband have resorted to name-calling people who are disagreeing with their tactics - referencing the KKK, white supremacy and racism - a fabrication from the start.

I implore you to recognize the motivations behind this effort and to nip this in the bud - just as your predecessors on the Board have done. If there is doubt as to how the community feels, then uphold the decision of the previous Board to bring this to a community vote. I implore you to prioritize your time and stop wasting it by putting a stop to this, and figuring out how to appeal to Sacramento (or whoever) to change the silly petition process. Recognize the ridiculousness of this issue that has been distracting the Board for 6 months. Recognize the motivations behind this effort. We have so many other important issues to talk about that directly impact our children. Let's talk to all of our children about the fact that having Dixie as a school and district name is not something to be ashamed of, as the CTN people have tried to make them feel. We will never know why the school was named Dixie. My parents never told me why they named me what they did, and since they are deceased, I will never know. I am not my name. If I were named Donald, would that somehow automatically make me Donald Duck or Donald Trump? A community is about the culture and the environment. Let's not succumb to political or media pressure in efforts to be 'politically correct'.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>](mailto:commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org)

Our community has been attacked for no reason- please end this with a community vote

1 message

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 5:23 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Our wonderful community has been attacked for absolutely no reason. The Dixie School District, all of the parents, volunteers, and our **children** deserve an apology for this absurd and politically motivated circus that began when a school board member blindsided the community she is supposed to represent. It has been an all out media campaign against the Dixie School District since she went on Channel 7 News in August, 2018 to announce that the Dixie School District name was racist. Since then, the Dixie Elementary sign has been vandalized, people have been called white supremacists who disagree with the name change, neighbors have been publicly shamed on social media, and friendships have ended. This entire thing is toxic and disgusting. Due to the level of hate, threats of lawsuits, public shaming, cyber bullying, and personal harassment in the community, I am *not* comfortable engaging in any public commentary, nor am I comfortable attending any "**community forums**" without sheriff involvement. Many feel the way I do. Any community forum should not allow outside media, or people who do not have children in the school district or who do not live in the district. We need to bring this to an end and have a community election. Let the registered voters and tax payers in the school district have a voice, and end this now. There are plenty of causes and people that need real help in Marin. Changing a name does nothing to benefit anyone in a real and tangible way, and will show our children and community that bully tactics do indeed work. Thank you for your time- let's get back to focusing on our kids and their education!

Sincerely,

3

The arguments made to change the name of Dixie School District are antithetical to the purposes of education. Facts and reason are trumped by assumptions, subjective feelings and tortured logic.

No facts are offered to support the notion that the word Dixie is widely regarded to be offensive.

One individual cites one example when he was offended by the words of a Dixie district resident. Apart from that regrettable instance, no other proof is offered that Dixie School District is or ever has been a toxic environment.

Generalizing from this one specific, name changers leap from Dixie to the Confederacy to slavery to the Civil War to racism in America in 2019. This specious argument rests mainly on subjective interpretation. It ignores the generally held view of historians (and textbooks) that the Civil War ended slavery.

As deplorable as racism is, no proof is offered that the Civil War or the word Dixie are motivating factors. Ignorance and poverty are far more likely to be involved.

Not one of the arguments presented provide a logical, compelling reason to change the name of Dixie School District.

Lastly, the vitriol of change advocates is an affront to the peaceful process of learning. Our children should not be taught that the loudest voice prevails or that threats of impending violence, involvement of the KKK or a "dark cloud" hanging over the Board are reasons to abandon truth and critical thinking skills.

As painful as it may be, the Board--as educators--have an obligation to stand up to demagoguery.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message

Eileen [REDACTED]

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 3:21 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To Members of the Dixie School Board

We have been residents of Terra Linda for 32 years and while both of our now grown daughters attended Vallecito Elementary, Miller Creek Middle and Terra Linda High Schools, our grandson will likely be starting kindergarten at Vallecito in September of 2020

We would like to go on record as strongly supporting a name change for the school as well as the district, since the name Dixie is a stark reminder of our past history of slavery and sends a wrong message to our young students. The name change is long overdue!

In these current times where racism is rearing it's ugly head all across the U.S. we should be especially mindful of those in our communities who might be offended by the name, whether they live in the school district or elsewhere in Marin.

It was proposed by the prior board to conduct an advisory election of voters within the district but I foresee many problems with that plan.

1. There are parents who have children in the district who may not be eligible to vote for various reasons ie non citizens, undocumented parents, inter district transfers etc.
2. Outside interests, newly empowered by our current administration and its anti immigrant and racist policies will most likely (if not already) get involved to persuade voters.
3. The cost of conducting an election is wasteful to the district when funds are so needed in the classrooms
4. It could foreseeably become even more nasty and divisive than it already has become.

You have to make a decision soon about this issue and I hope you will make the right one which would be to change the name quickly and decisively and not allow this to further divide our community.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Rafael CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Our Community Must Vote on Name Change

1 message

Patrick Mahaney pmahaney41@gmail.com
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 11:38 AM

The only equitable way to decide this issue is to put it to a vote of all the people who live and pay taxes in the school district.


Terra Linda



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 6:18 AM

Dear Dixie School Board-

I am hoping and urging you to change the name of the Dixie School.

I support the names: Miwok Elementary or Miwok Hills OR Oak Valley honoring the first people who tended to, and the trees that create, the beauty of this land AND relieving just a tiny bit of the pain and perhaps fear caused by the old name, even if that was not intention. There are many of us, especially in this county, who live with a privilege that will never allow us to feel this pain or fear that may come from a word or name but that does not mean we should ignore how it effects others.

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

I support changing the name of the Dixie School District

1 message

Frank and Bert Carbone frankcarb@yahoo.com

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 2:02 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I support the proposal to change the name of the Dixie School District. I believe that no matter how historical the name might be, it has connotations that some in our community might find distasteful. Any of the suggested new names are acceptable to me.

Thank you,

Frank and Bert Carbone
14000 Henry Road
San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep the Dixie name

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 12:21 AM

To whom it may concern,

This effort to change the name of the Dixie School District is a ridiculous and very sad waste of time, money and energy.

My son attended Miller Creek Middle School and played sports on many of the Dixie teams. To us it has always been a name that we are proud of.. It represents a community of kind, loving and progressive people who are inclusive and non-discriminating against any ethnic or racial group. It is not right to create and invent prejudice where there is none.

I have worked in all four of the Dixie schools for the past five years and I have never seen any prejudice actions or speech, everyone is treated with great respect and taught to do the same.

If this is put on the ballot in the 2020 election it will be seen that the people in the community wish to uphold the fine Dixie name that they love and respect.

There are much more important things to focus on than this foolish political agenda.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone