



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the Name

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 9:27 PM

Names often appear innocuous until they are applied to one personally. In our current culture where code words are being used as epithets, it is clear that Dixie has a strong racist meaning and acts as a reminder of one of America's worst periods and remaining vile prejudice.

I urge you to be champions of our age and disengage future students from this embarrassing and intolerant past.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Unacceptable behavior

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 9:22 PM

Dear Mr Yamashiro,

At the time you made the decision to go on ABC in August and declare that you felt that the term Dixie was synonymous with the Confederacy, were you aware of the repercussions this action would have on our community and the stranglehold this would have on the Board?

Are you aware that the husband of your Board Member – Marnie Glickman – appeared at my door step a week ago, threatening me?

Are you aware that someone (I'm pretty sure it was Marnie or David as they attended the Kamala Harris event) wrote a fake post on Next Door this week, claiming to be a 71 year old Jewish woman - Daisy Rose - in our neighborhood – snapshot attached –trying to incite more anger within the community with lies and 'fake news'? This required "her" (or whoever posted it) to claim an address that wasn't hers and make up a false name. Where I come from that's called fraud and identity theft – both serious crimes.

Do you honestly believe that the community can have serious dialogue next week when Tweets like the attached are sent out?

For you to stay silent on this makes you complicit. We will be campaigning for your resignation - your lack of leadership subsequent to your TV appearance is astounding. This community deserves (a lot) better.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

2 attachments

IMG_8911.JPG
211K

IMG_8912.JPG
162K

  y Rose, Lucas Valley/Marinwood

OUTRAGED AND ASHAMED


I had the pleasure of watching Kamala Harris kick off her campaign for POTUS today and I am inspired.

It's come to my attention that there is some very foul rhetoric on nextdoor and I decided to check it out for myself. I am an introvert and rarely go on the internet but curiosity has gotten the best of me. I've lived in this community for over 40 years and had no idea that neighbors like this existed.

As a white American, a retired educator, and the daughter of immigrants, I am outraged at these blatantly Narrow-minded posts and comments. What kind of person posts a photo of a black singing group or fried chicken to defend the name Dixie???? All Of the insensitive tones and the minimizing of the minority experience is extremely offensive. I can't imagine that all of the people who want to keep the name can defend this.

This is absolutely deplorable behavior. Aren't any of you concerned about your careers or how you will be perceived by the public?? By revealing your true characters you are making myself and the community where I raised my children look like a superior and intolerant society. This ideology will not be tolerated!!!

A few months ago I was greeted by a young woman at my door step who tried to shove her WeAreDixie petition down my throat. When I told her that I wanted nothing to do with the debate and would not sign she stormed off with disappointment. Initially, I wanted to stay as far away from this topic as possible. After reading these rude and unenlightened posts and comments I will be writing my letter to support the name change TONIGHT! I implore everyone who agrees with me to please write a letter ASAP to the district so we can shut this down immediately. And if you don't agree with me please STOP, LISTEN, and



**Change
The Name Of
Dixie School
District**

Tweets
257

Following
690

Followers
86

Likes
43

Lists
1

Follow

**Change The Name of
Dixie District**

@NewNameForDixie


Dixie School District was named after the Confederacy during the Civil War. It's time to change the name. The board vote is on Feb. 12. Please join us.

- San Rafael, CA
- changethename.net
- Joined July 2018

Tweet to Change The Name of D...

Photos and videos

Tweets Tweets & replies Media



Change The Name of Dixie District @NewNameForDixie · Jan 27
ACTION ALERT: Email Dixie School Board by 2/3. Tell them to change the name of the school district. >> commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

**Change the name of
Dixie School District!**
THE CONFEDERACY DOESN'T NEED AN
OUTPOST IN CALIFORNIA

WWW.CHANGETHENAME.NET



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

I vote for Oak Valley Elementary School District!

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 8:55 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

My heart sank as I drove home and the news said a young black actor had been attacked with bleach, a noose hung around his neck, and called racial and homophobic slurs. Racism has become permissible again and so now it is our duty to make sure our children know we will not tolerate it at all; that hate has no place in our school, our town, our county or our country.

Therefore we cannot keep the name Dixie for a school. This is the definition for Dixie: **Dixie (otherwise known as Dixieland) is a nickname for the Southern United States, especially those states that composed the Confederate States of America.** We don't want a school named after the Confederacy, a union that treated human beings as chattel and sought their permanent enslavement.

This renewed demonization of people of color in our country is an affront to decency and must be stopped dead in its tracks. Let's be emphatically on the right side of history in name and in action.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
[Redacted Name] School Classmate, [Redacted] Nominee 2018



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

2 messages

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 7:58 PM

I have been following for months now the efforts of a group of people who want the name of our district changed. I have lived in this district for more than 50 years and am the proud mother and grandmother of seven wonderful people who were educated in the Dixie schools. After listening to the points made by both sides, I firmly believe that a name change, with all the time, energy, and money involved, would be of no benefit to the children of our community. Money for the education of our children is in short supply; there are so many ways it can be used in very concrete ways to improve the quality of what is already an outstanding experience for both our kids and their teachers.

I am happy and proud to live in the Dixie District, and am looking forward to voting to express my hope that we will keep our name!

Sent from my iPad

Marjorie Hoversten <hoverstn@lvha.net>
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 8:21 PM

I just sent a letter but unfortunately forgot to include my name and address. I am resending the letter with name and address at the bottom.

I have been following for months now the efforts of a group of people who want the name of our district changed. I have lived in this district for more than 50 years and am the proud mother and grandmother of seven wonderful people who were educated in the Dixie schools. After listening to the points made by both sides, I firmly believe that a name change, with all the time, energy and money involved, would be of no benefit to the children of our community. Money for the education of our children is in short supply; there are so many ways it can be used in very concrete ways to improve the quality of what is an already outstanding experience for both our kids and their teachers.

I am proud and happy to live in the Dixie District, and am looking forward to voting to express my hope that we will keep our name!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Sent from my iPad

TO: Brad Honsberger
Alissa Chacko
Marnie Glickman
Brooks Nguyen
Megan Hutchinson
Dr. Jason Yamashiro

January 29, 2019

RE: Dixie Name Change

On January 15th you patiently sat through several hours of a professionally orchestrated performance, with cameras running, put on by the change the name (CTN) advocates. You will surely be treated to a similar spectacle on February 12th. These are cleverly designed attempts to intimidate you on the one hand and tug at your heart strings on the other. The not so subtle message is; if you want to get back to the real mission of the Board, you had better change the name or this torment will continue.

On February 12th you will be faced with making a decision regarding a series of name change petitions. You can succumb to the pressure or pause and stick with the decision made by the prior Board to **put the issue to a democratic vote of the community**. My belief is that your decision can be made by answering five basic questions.

1. Will the decision be based on emotion, or facts and logic?
2. Will the decision unite or further divide the community?
3. Is a name change supported by the majority of the Dixie District voters and financial supporters? In other words, 'our' community.
4. Will a name change contribute to furthering the education of our children?
5. Will a name change do anything to improve the lives and prospects of our children?

I am opposed to a name change and feel the best way forward is to put the issue to a vote of the community. I apologize for the length of this letter but I want to put all my thoughts in one document. I thank you in advance if you have the

patience to read it through. But if you don't have the patience and would prefer instead to take some advice from **Abraham Lincoln** here it is:

President Lincoln was desperate to unite the Country once the war had been won **"with malice toward none, with charity for all"**. As the celebration in Washington reached a crescendo and the bands were marching down the streets, he made a simple request. **"Play Dixie"** It is our song now!!

For those who want to delve a bit further into this issue consider the following:

First, the specific origin of the name Dixie will probably never be definitively proven. It might be the result of a bet, chosen to honor a Native American family, represent the ten (dix in French) children of James Miller, or a variety of other theories. What seems to be very clear, however, is that there is no evidence that James Miller, credited with bestowing the name on the District, was a racist or that racism had anything to do with the naming of the District. Quite the contrary, there is ample evidence, including the adoption of two Native American children, that Mr. Miller was a benevolent and caring person. James Miller's use of the word Dixie to identify the school district he helped establish had no racist connotation then and certainly does not have one now.

Substantially all the arguments put forward by the name change advocates are emotional. Most relate to the eras of slavery and Jim Crow (which I am familiar with having lived in Georgia for six months in the 50's) or experiences certain individuals had in their youth and/or in other parts of the country.

The Dixie School District is an open, welcoming community as is the broader community of Marin County. The occasional, isolated incidents of apparent racism in the County can more likely be attributed to ignorant pranks or comments by school kids. No connection to the word Dixie has ever been made, as recently confirmed by Superintendent Yamashiro.

The arguments put forward that have motivated the CTN advocates break down when subjected to even casual analysis. Here are just a few:

"The name Dixie establishes Marin County as an outpost of the Confederacy". But Marin County has never been an outpost of the Confederacy, before, during or after the Civil War, which I will remind you, ended 153 years ago. This comment is ludicrous on its face. This individual has also stated that his goal is to "save Marin from itself", whatever that means.

There was the comment by a speaker that the brutal murder of teenager, Emmitt Till, in Mississippi in 1955 had a particular impact on him because it happened in Dixie (a geographical part of America) and because Emmitt Till looked like him. Apparently, if the incident happened outside of Dixie and Emmitt Till did not look like him it would not have made any particular impact.

A contributor at the Board meetings compares the word Dixie to Auschwitz. Auschwitz was an extermination camp set up specifically to murder people. The comparison to Dixie is really an insult to the millions of people murdered by the Nazi's and a trivialization of the horror that the word Auschwitz reflects. Yes, slavery was horrible as were the succeeding Jim Crow years, but Dixie cannot be reasonably compared to Auschwitz. And there is absolutely no connection between our Dixie School District, Auschwitz or the 'Dixie' of long ago.

An opinion was expressed that it is not the people who have perpetually raised the issue of the District's name that are dividing the community, it is the word Dixie itself that divides the community. Really? The word Dixie has never divided the community. It is the people who are making the word an issue that are dividing the community. Bear in mind, the same word can be used in an endearing way or in an offensive way. It is the context and motive behind the use that makes it one or the other.

Descending further into a pit of illogic, one contributor, objecting to a vote of the community, asked how the people of South Carolina would have voted on slavery if asked in 1860. A comparison of South Carolina in 1860 and Marin County today is silly and I don't doubt how South Carolina would vote on slavery today.

Perhaps the saddest display of emotion was that of the African-American lady who stated she did not want white people making decisions affecting black

people. Does she not realize that hundreds of thousands of white people died to end slavery, that white people passed the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and that every person on the School Board is white?

There are many other examples which have opened the community up to ridicule but I will conclude this part of my letter with one more example of the emotion driving the CTN advocates.

A recent transplant from Texas stated, without any supporting evidence or examples, that he witnessed racist incidents in Texas. Apparently he believes changing the name of Dixie will somehow reduce racism in Texas and elsewhere or at least prevent its eruption in our community. This person, taking up the banner first waived by Board member Glickman, warns that unless the name is changed we will be inviting the KKK, Antifa, and various unaffiliated racists to unleash havoc on our community. So ask yourself, who is it that is really inviting, perhaps even hoping, that these despicable elements in our society descend on our peaceful community just to prove their point?

This person's embarrassingly childish behavior at the January 15th Board meeting, waving signs and beginning a chant, resulted in a well-deserved admonition by the Board's President. These antics and others are a clear reflection that emotion, not mature thinking, drives the CTN effort.

We can all recognize that certain issues do create an emotional reaction depending on an individual's particular circumstances. We should be sympathetic, validate and empathize with those emotions but not let decisions affecting thousands of people be driven by the emotions of a few.

The **Dixie** School District has been **an outstanding educational resource** for our children. Our community makes every effort to be inclusive and goes out of its way to be fair and unbiased. Generations of children have gone through our schools and become successful, contributing members of their communities. Dixie has never meant anything to them except the wonderful experiences, educational and otherwise, that have formed their characters and lives. It is exceptionally sad

that a small group of elite activists are now attempting to indoctrinate our children into believing that they belong to a community that supports racist symbols, is indifferent to the feelings of others and that all this can easily be corrected by changing the name of their school district. We have seen a stark display of the consequences of this indoctrination in the words of the children that have addressed the Board.

So how did all this begin? For about twenty years, a handful of activists, mostly from outside our school district, apparently have believed that eliminating what they perceived to be a racist symbol would be a life fulfilling accomplishment. Some of these activists seem to view every issue or event through the prism of racism. Repeated proposals to previous School Boards were not supported by fact or reason and were not pursued.

And then along came Marnie Glickman. A wealthy activist, searching for a cause, with open political ambitions, who had mislead voters to win a seat on the Board. Working secretly behind the backs of the other Board members, she inappropriately enlisted Superintendent Yamashiro and re-launched the name change initiative, perhaps believing that it might engender only modest opposition.

But the community did not remain silent. It researched the various theories of the name origin. It evaluated the character of James Miller. It spoke to a representative of a Native American community who addressed the Board and confirmed the validity of the Dixie family name and the possibility that the name was chosen to honor that family. It provided research to establish that the family name Dixie existed for hundreds of years before the formation of the Confederacy. It provided facts that **the word Dixie is in common usage today**, not only as a designation of a geographic area, but the name of many towns in America, of a National Forest, of a college, of music, of corporations and products and **the name of eight thousand African-American women living today in America.** It pointed out the futility of symbolic attacks on names and events that existed in a different time, in a different place and under different circumstances. Great people, black and white, have had character flaws or were victims of their

own circumstances. Washington, Jefferson, Martin Luther King. Great men. Flawed men. To be honored, nevertheless, and not erased from history.


Giving careful consideration to all the evidence and respecting the sense of the community, the most recent past School Board sensibly decided to **put the name change issue to an advisory vote of the community**. Recognizing the weakness of their position, the CTN folks immediately objected and continue to object accusing the Board of displaying a lack of leadership. They seem to feel that democracy is an unacceptable method for evaluating and deciding important issues. They further argue that the only way to end more of the chaos they have created is for the Board to change the name now. Otherwise, the issue will further divide the community and could potentially lead to violence. Do what we want or else is their message.

As already mentioned, this effort is being led by a small group of Marin County elites, using bullying tactics, who believe their lives cannot be fulfilled unless they are actively working on a politically correct cause. Many of them have no connection to the Dixie School District. They have not and will not contribute positively to the District regardless of the outcome of this controversy. They do not seem to realize how their reaction to a word that is harmless in its current context, Dixie, has given that word so much power over their emotions and self-perception.

They have been joined by a group of very well-meaning folks who feel badly, perhaps even guilty, about how minorities have been perceived and treated in the past and in other parts of America. They are being led by and supported by late joining political opportunists and a blatant political wannabe who feel that promoting this cause will enhance their political fortunes. Many are, in my opinion, hypocrites. Where were they when their children were attending a Dixie school or when they served on the School Board? The word Dixie did not seem to matter much then. How much better would it be to direct the time, energy and money that they are wasting to **make a real difference in the lives of the children** they are claiming to care for?

Despite its wealth, Marin County is faced with many **real** problems. Teenage pregnancy, drug addiction, inadequate housing, poverty, broken families, gang membership, educational challenges, poor job training, all contributing to a continuing cycle of hopelessness. These issues cannot be addressed with symbolic gestures that might make a few activists feel good about themselves but mean absolutely nothing to a child trapped in one of these situations. The Board should be allowed to **focus on the children** rather than on this divisive, useless name change initiative?

That's it. Make your decision. But as you contemplate whether to use logic or emotion in making this decision, ask yourself how you would like the children under your care to make important decisions. With logic or emotion? Will changing the name result in more inclusion in a community that is already a model of inclusion? Does a name change reflect the majority opinion of the Dixie community? And **will changing the name of the School District make any difference in the life of a single struggling kid in Marin County or anywhere else?**



94903

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Name change



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name change

1 message

[REDACTED] <sam@brinkerhoff@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 7:56 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

This is a big deal. Please change the name. The new name can honor a great educator.
Thank you very much

[REDACTED]
Longtime San Rafael and Marin resident

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Rename Dixie School District



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Rename Dixie School District

Rename Dx School Dist.

1 message

Ruby MacDonald <rudy.mcd@northweston.ca>

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 7:54 PM

To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please rename the Dixie School District!

Ruby MacDonald



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the name of the Dixie School District

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 7:23 PM

I am a San Rafael native, though not a current San Rafael resident nor member of the school district. I have been following the controversy over the district's name and support those in favor of changing it. The word Dixie is a hot button and for many valid reasons, mainly because it reflects back to a time in our history where Black human beings were enslaved.

I agree with Dr. Pitchford's statement that while some members of the community (my addition: a mainly white community) don't see the harm in the word Dixie, students of color who must learn in an environment where even "subtle" or "unintentional" messages are present honoring a history that excluded and devalued those like them are affronted by the name Dixie on a daily basis. For that reason alone, for those adults and students who see and feel the disparity, I hope you decide to find a new name, a name that has a proud history, a name that ALL members of your community and the Marin community at large can take pride in.
Thank you
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone




Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the name of Dixie School District


1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 6:41 PM

 commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

We are requesting that you change the name of the Dixie School District and school to end the controversy which directly harms all of us in the Marin Community. Tamalpais High School changed their sports team name to "The Red Tailed Hawks" decades ago, and now, you can make a similar change.

Thank you so much.





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Board discussion on Dixie name

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 6:31 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To the Dixie School District Board of Directors,

I am writing a second letter to address the pressure that is being placed on you to make a rushed and non-democratic vote on the name of OUR school district. I urge you not to take the action of a vote by yourselves. If you feel that an action is necessary, put it to the vote of the entire community. We are letting the actions and voice of a minor few dictate outcomes that affect us all. I would also ask you to take into account all voices that you have heard to date, in all forms, and not just those in a particular time window. Our lives are exceptionally busy and if someone has taken the effort to weigh in in this, it should be heard and taken into consideration.

I think this whole debate has been a waste of time and does nothing for the benefit of our schools or the quality of education or experience that the kids in this district have. Tackle the real issues impacting our district and KEEP the name of Dixie. Enough.

We need to focus on topics and actions that will provide a tangible benefit to our kids. A considerable amount of time, money and energy has been wasted on this cause. Social Justice is incredibly important in ours and all communities, but this name change does not provide a tangible help to any child. Even though this is being proposed in the name of justice, that is a false narrative that is skewing the debate. We need to focus on things that will specifically benefit kids and teachers.

We have the best school district in the Bay Area, yet we are eroding the community and our reputation with this debate. We have serious issues to solve and need serious people to solve them, and need to stop wasting time with this rhetoric. Imagine if this energy was put into things to help our students and schools? We have a 15% poverty rate in our district. Poverty is real in our district and there should be more of a focus on assisting others that are not as fortunate in our community. Our committed teachers struggle to make ends meet in the Bay Area. We need to help them do the job we charge them with. There are so many far positive things we could be doing with the time spent and money raised on this "issue" that will not help one single student. While I hope that those pushing for a name change are doing it for good intent, their approach and tactics do not show that, and the bigger challenges and priorities of the district are being lost in this debate.

Focus on actions that will have specific positive impacts in the education of the students in our district. Reject divisive comments and stay strong in your chartered directives. Do not waste any more time on this. Listen to the comments that have already been shared. Focus on value-based activities. If you feel an action is necessary, do not take this on yourself. Put this to a full district vote if you feel you must, but do not act alone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Proud resident of the Dixie School District,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, Ca 94903
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Confederate name



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Confederate name

1 message

From: [REDACTED] <lonjss007@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 6:29 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Please change the name of this district to one of honor. California is better than this.
Sent from my iPhone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep Dixie Dixie - put to a vote

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 5:02 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Superintendent and Board:

I have lived in Lucas Valley for 48 years. My three children were educated in the Dixie School District. Not once do I recall during that time hearing any comment related to the name Dixie. Our children were happy and we were happy to be involved in all Dixie School activities. Too much valuable Board, administration and parent time has been squandered on this matter.

A small group of individuals, many from outside the District, are trying to subvert the work of the Board with half-truths, innuendo, historical distortions and a twisted sense of logic. None of these have any place in an organization dedicated to education, reason and facts.

Now the right and sensible decision is to put it to a vote. The Board has already taken the sensible position of seeking a vote of the community before making any decision to change the name of the District. That decision is sound and must stand in the face of demagoguery.

Hold the Vote!

San Rafael, CA 94903

Sent from my iPad

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. I respectfully ask the Board to reject the name change petitions because the issue is so toxic that any decision the Board makes will further inflame the community. How did we get to this appalling state of affairs? Here are some lowlights:

- In May 2018, Marnie Glickman enlisted professional activists from outside the district to launch a social media sneak attack on the community and her fellow board members. By the end of August, Glickman and Superintendent Yamashiro appeared on Channel 7 news *in their official District capacities* to announce to the Bay Area that the Dixie name is synonymous with the Confederacy.
- The social media blitz continued with a local Change the Name advocate exploiting his position as a NextDoor Lead to make this forum his personal soapbox, maligning the community as racist and suppressing opposing views. The professional activists didn't stop with social media. Marin IJ, KTVU, KQED, the SF Chronicle, the Huffington Post and others were enlisted to attack our community.
- At the November 13th Board Meeting, Ms. Glickman raised the specter of the KKK and various white supremacist attacking the neighborhood in support of keeping the Dixie name.
- Not to be outdone, Ms. Glickman's husband David Curtis cheered the vandalization of Dixie property and threatened members of the community at their homes. For more examples of "Glickman/Curtis Family Values," please see <https://wearedixie.org/they-did-what/> and <https://www.marinij.com/2019/01/24/dixie-name-change-controversy-escalates/> and <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/video/4016964-north-bay-community-divided-over-name-of-school-district/>

Please make the right decision on behalf of your constituents. Reject bullying and intimidation, and let district residents vote in the 2020 advisory ballot.

Sincererely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] San Rafael, CA 94903

1/30/19

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 reaffirm its decision to put the name change issue on an advisory ballot, accompanied by a rigorous analysis of the financial impacts of any change.

There are different theories about the origin the Dixie name and unfortunately, we'll never know more than we know today about James Miller's thinking when he named the district. There are also differences about feelings that people have toward the name. Some associate Dixie with the Confederacy and others associate it with educational excellence in an open and welcoming community in Northern California. The advisory ballot is the only way to ensure that all voters in the district can make their voices heard.

Another reason we need the advisory ballot is that sadly, the opportunity for open dialog has past. The division that this issue has caused in our small community has turned neighbor against neighbor and intimidated people from speaking up. The privacy of the voting booth will ensure that people feel comfortable expressing their opinion.

I sincerely hope that you make the right decision for our community and our children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] afael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

REQUEST DIXIE BE REMOVED FROM NAME

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 4:39 PM

I am a retired teacher and have lived in Marin (Larkspur and Novato) for nearly seven years. Although my children did not grow up or go to school in Marin, I feel qualified to speak as a resident, an educator, and soon to be mother in law of a current Novato school parent.

This name with it's clear historical association to the institution of slavery is just not appropriate for any school district in our county. I'm actually astounded it was adopted during the Civil War. Am I to understand that a majority of San Rafael residents were supporters of the Confederacy? And even if they were, it can go in the museum but not on our schools or letterhead.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  Novato, CA
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

No name change for Dixie

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lilly.com>
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 4:33 PM

Dear Dixie School Board,

I am writing to you because I am against changing the Dixie school district name. The efforts of board members and non-Dixie residents to change the name at this time appear to be for the sole purpose of virtue-signaling, self-promotion and outright bullying. The proof of bullying by board member, Marni Glickman-Curtis, are the threats by her husband David Curtis to my wife at my home and on social media are outrageous and have been reported to the local authorities. Additionally, the Curtis' and their colleagues have bullied others in the community in person and on social media.

With this in mind, the existing Dixie Board members should not be voting to change the Dixie name, unless Marni Glickman-Curtis has been removed from the board. Or better yet, the people themselves, those residents who live in the Dixie school district, should be allowed to vote to change the name or not.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903

8 year Dixie resident

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

Keep Dixie Dixie

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 4:31 PM

Dixie School Board Members:

We moved to our current address 50 years ago. One of the main reasons we decided to move to Lucas Valley was because of the excellent DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT. We were not disappointed.

Our three children began their terrific education, graduating from Dixie and Miller Creek, and then on to Terra Linda and eventually college. Today, all three have great jobs and are positive influences of society. Two of our grandchildren have graduated from Dixie and Miller Creek. After graduation at Terra Linda our grandson is now serving our country as a proud Marine. Our granddaughter will graduate from Terra Linda in June and has been accepted at four different colleges!

I worked for the Dixie District for about 10 years, first as a classroom aide at Dixie and Santa Margarita Schools, then at the Dixie District Office as secretary to Health, Guidance and Music. I look back at those years as some of the best of my life.

Both my husband and I have volunteered many hours helping make the Dixie District the incredible experience it is for all children. To all appearances, the young parents today are continuing this tradition.

[REDACTED]
Rob and Judi Schellenberg

[REDACTED]
212 Jaylberry Road

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903

[REDACTED]
415.795.5544

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Change school district name from Dixie



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change school district name from Dixie

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 4:18 PM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Please remove the name Dixie from the school district. It it was way of honoring slavery and that is offensive.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep Dixie - Dixie

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 4:08 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear People: My wife [REDACTED] and I have lived in upper Lucas Valley since 1971.

The Dixie School name has nothing to do with racism or hate.

For us the School has always been a happy neighborhood place
that provided excellent educations for our three children.

If the group that opposes our school name are so fearful of
the word "Dixie", then they should build a wall between the
northern States and the Southern states. Good luck on getting
Funded. Thank you.

[REDACTED]
San Rafael 94903 phone [REDACTED]

1/31/19

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 reaffirm its decision to put the name change issue on an advisory ballot, accompanied by a rigorous analysis of the financial impacts of any change.

There are different theories about the origin the Dixie name and unfortunately, we'll never know more than we know today about James Miller's thinking when he named the district. There are also differences about feelings that people have toward the name. Some associate Dixie with the Confederacy and others associate it with educational excellence in an open and welcoming community in Northern California. The advisory ballot is the only way to ensure that all voters in the district can make their voices heard.

Another reason we need the advisory ballot is that sadly, the opportunity for open dialog has past. The division that this issue has caused in our small community has turned neighbor against neighbor and intimidated people from speaking up. The privacy of the voting booth will ensure that people feel comfortable expressing their opinion.

I sincerely hope that you make the right decision for our community and our children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

change name of Dixie School District

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 4:01 PM


Please change the name of the Dixie School District.

This name does not go along with the values of the people who live in Marin County.

Sticking with this "tradition" or "history" is the same as sticking with racist and oppressive traditions and history just because that's how they've always been. We can and should change old and oppressive traditions.

We should make our community welcoming to all people of Marin. How I would feel if, as a Jewish man, my kids went to school at the Third Reich School District? Probably the same way People of Color feel sending their kids to Dixie.

Please right a wrong that should have been done years ago.



2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - DIXIE NAME CHANGE



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

DIXIE NAME CHANGE

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 3:58 PM

To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

My name is [REDACTED] and I served on the Dixie School Board for eight years in the 1980s. My wife and I have lived in the Dixie school district for 50 years and have been strong supporters of education.

We are writing to encourage you to stand firm on the Board's earlier promise to have an advisory ballot in 2020. While we, personally, are against the name change we believe the entire Dixie community should be able to express their desire on whether or not to change the name of the district.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 3:18 PM

I am a resident of San Anselmo. The name is outdated and offensive to people. Names of schools, streets, etc. change all the time with dedications to honor dedicated educators and philanthropists.

This name had its time and it is time to get rid of the bad feelings and energy associations.

Can't believe the community has wasted so much time on this debate, but I Hope it has opened dialog in the community and will lead to solving issues of greater importance.

Best,

Steven Mendelow Nelson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] # [REDACTED] Science/Technology Education
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Tele

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Name Change for Dixie School District!!!



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change for Dixie School District!!!

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 2:55 PM

IT IS WAY PAST TIME TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT!
This is Marin County, California...not some place in the South!


Lifetime Marin County Resident

January 30, 2019

Dixie School District Board

CC: Dr. Jason Yamashiro,

Dixie School District Superintendent

Subject: Regarding District Name Changing

Dear Dixie School Board Members:

Thank you for your service to the children of our school district.


I believe that, as our elected trustees, your primary responsibility is to be the stewards of our children's education to make our District better and excel and **not to be involved in politics**.

The hot debated name change of our beloved school district is heartbreaking and has deeply divided this peaceful and hard working class community. The proposed name change of the school district doesn't change who we are as Dixie community. As a legal immigrant and a Dixie mother myself, I am very proud to say that our schools and the community embrace diversity and support children from all backgrounds. Unfortunately, **racism** and **social justice** have become such convenient politic tools for some of the politicians and human rights activists. Academic performance level is one of the utmost key factors, while families consider school districts not the history of the district name. In addition, "Dixie" has been widely used on our daily products such as Dixie paper plates and cups, and so on. If this is a social justice issue then we probably need a nationwide conversation. It is a **ridiculous** debate with **ridiculously proposed names** from a parent's perspective.

To that end, I ask that the new board upholds the 4-1 decision that was made last November by seasoned board members to put this issue to an advisory ballot in 2020. Our community has a **democratic** right to a community vote without being subjected to external political or media coercion. The entire community will respect the result of this democratic process.

At the same time, I also urge the board to only focuses on the policies that are truly beneficial to our children for achieving higher academic performance and the social skills they need. We don't want to see what has been happening in the San Rafael District occurs in our community.

Sincerely,


San Rafael, CA



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Public School District Renaming

1 message

Nick Johnson - Nick@jdmovers.com

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 2:22 PM

To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Hello & Best wishes,

I would like the opportunity to provide my opinion to the debate regarding the renaming of my school district. Attached is a letter summarizing my belief that Dixie is a source of pride for our small community and should not have a name change.

If there are any questions or comments regarding my submission, please feel free to contact me anytime via email or my phone numbers listed below.

Nick Johnson

Owner, Daily Moving Inc.

Atlas Agent #1228

Or 415-491-4444

C 415-419-7414

nick@jdmovers.com



Why I love Dixie.docx

15K

Why I love Dixie

To Whom It May Concern,

Jan 30, 2019

During the twenty-four years I've lived in Dixie School District, I can recall few issues more divisive than this business of renaming the district. I am unclear as to why this topic is up for debate, but I know why I love the name Dixie. I also know what it means to grow up in a country divided and the impression that leaves on the youth. The Dixie Public School District should snuff the division in our community and retain their title as it has been for over 155 years.

I am not a conservative, politically or otherwise – but I understand the importance of conserving history. Especially due to the significance a local history can have for a small community. The definition of community is, “a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage” (Dictionary.com, n.d). Across our small neighborhoods, Dixie School District is the foundation of our shared heritage. In 1853 Don Timoteo Murphy donated 377 acers of land for the purpose of creating an educational institution. On November 3, 1863 The Dixie Public School District was created and given its name by The Board of Supervisors (Dixie Schoolhouse foundation). Sixteen days later, President Abraham Lincoln would give the Gettysburg Address, saying the famous words, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” (Basler). Our community was founded upon education and our lineage of quality learning institutions is a source of pride for our community that is enshrined in the name Dixie.

If asked to name a landmark within our district, what might you say? I would proudly answer, “The Dixie Schoolhouse.”

For your consideration,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dixie Elementary – Class of 2005
Miller Creek Middle School – Class of 2008
Terra Linda High – 2009-2010
St. Vincent De Paul High School – Class of 2012
College of Marin – Class of 2016
Sonoma State School of Economics – Current
Johnson & Daly Moving Inc. – Treasurer

Works Cited

Basler, Roy p. *The Gettysburg Address*, Abraham Lincoln Online,
www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm.

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www.dictionary.com/browse/community.

The Pastoral Period- 1843-1954, The Dixie Schoolhouse Foundation,
www.dixieschoolhouse.org/the-pastoral-period-1843-1954.html.

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

Keep the Dixie Name!

1 message

[REDACTED] <Marty10@yahoo.com>
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 2:17 PM

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.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie - Be fair - Let's Vote on it.

1 message

james@lucasvalley.net
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 2:14 PM

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board:

Having lived across from Dixie School for 31 years I never once heard anything negative about the name. (I still own my home but recently moved.)

Dixie School has been a wonderful school so I am disheartened to see how the community has been turned upside down by increasingly mean spirited tactics by a new member of the Board and the appalling behavior of her husband. . If that wasn't enough she resorted to turning it into a media circus. Is this really about political aspirations?

I lived in various countries around the world and in the southern states and the name "Dixie" was not negative but was associated with fun such as Dixieland jazz.

I respectfully ask the Board to reject the name change petitions because the issue is so toxic that any decision the Board makes will further inflame the community.

- In May 2018, Marnie Glickman enlisted professional activists from outside the district to launch a social media sneak attack on the community and her fellow board members. By the end of August, Glickman and Superintendent Yamashiro appeared on Channel 7 news in their official District capacities to announce to the Bay Area that the Dixie name is synonymous with the Confederacy.
- The social media blitz continued with a local Change the Name advocate exploiting his position as a NextDoor Lead to make this forum his personal soapbox, maligning the community as racist and suppressing opposing views. The professional activists didn't stop with social media. Marin IJ, KTVU, KQED, the SF Chronicle, the Huffington Post and others were enlisted to attack our community.
- At the November 13th Board Meeting, Ms. Glickman raised the specter of the KKK and various white supremacist attacking the neighborhood in support of keeping the Dixie name.
- Not to be outdone, Ms. Glickman's husband David Curtis cheered the vandalization of Dixie property and threatened members of the community at their homes. For more examples of "Glickman/Curtis Family Values," please see <https://wearedixie.org/they-did-what/> and <https://www.marinij.com/2019/01/24/dixie-name-change-controversy-escalates/> and <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/video/4016964-north-bay-community-divided-over-name-of-school-district/>

Please make the right decision on behalf of your constituents. Reject bullying and intimidation. Be fair and let district residents vote in the 2020 advisory ballot.

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Dixie - Be fair - Let's Vote on it.

Thank you for your service to our community and our children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Janice Opterman

Temporary address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Owner of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Comment on Petitions

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 1:42 PM

Reply-To: Kat [REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dixie School District Board,

Thank you for your service to the children of the school district. Regarding the name of the Dixie School District, I ask that it be left to our community in the form of an Advisory Ballot in 2020 as was previously decided 4-1 by the school board in November. Along with those in We Are Dixie, I respect the right of everyone to hold their own opinions, but feel it is crucial to the resolution to this matter that it be fully weighed in by the people living in this community and not through political or media pressure.

I also feel this is the best way to bring our community back together. It is a sad time for our us as members as we have been dragged through the mud by folks who do not even live here or have lived her for a short amount of time. It is difficult for me look at our county newspaper, go to the market, my gym or even walk into my work without negative comments and new rumors generated on a daily basis.

Please keep the name change to an Advisory Ballot so we may begin the healing process for our community and schools.

With Regards,

[REDACTED]
20+ year resident of Marinwood, dedicated parent and staff member of the Dixie School District

2 children, 22 and 19 years old-alumni of the district



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message

sharon.krass@comcast.net
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 1:12 PM

Greetings. I am emailing you to let you know that I support changing the name of the Dixie school district. There is no reason to support The Confederacy in Marin.
Regards,


Marin County Resident



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie votes matter in our community.....

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 11:33 AM

To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>
Cc: Dixie School District <superintendent@dixieschooldistrict.org>, Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>

Greetings,

I have been a real estate agent, business owner, and homeowner in the Dixie School District for the past 15 years. I am a proud parent of 2 children that have been through the district since kindergarten, a frequent volunteer at the schools, and I have been one of the largest monetary donors of the Dixie School District for over a decade

In my almost 15 years of selling hundreds of homes in the district, promoting the word Dixie in all of my marketing (which includes flyers, websites, the MLS, etc), and sending out thousands of e-mails seen by almost a million people promoting my listings and the award winning Dixie School District, plus meeting tens of thousands of people from all around the state, nation, and world looking for homes in the Dixie School District at open houses .


I have NEVER, not even once, had someone question the name of our school district, raise their eyebrows, or allude to the fact that we do not have diversity of ethnicities because of the name of our school district. **In fact I had no idea whatsoever** that the name was ever even considered an issue until just over a month ago when it came up with the board.

Two political activists from outside of our community have repeatedly told locals that they should be hurt by the word Dixie. Some people believe it when others are not buying into it, especially since the name Dixie is used often throughout the world and in African American culture in current day. This is the third time this duo has tried to change the name of our district and they have shown they will do anything to win especially now that have a rogue board member in their pocket that has her own political agenda.

I feel that an issue this big and divisive should be put to rest by a local democratic vote which includes the voice of the generations of local families that have worked to build the award winning school district. The school board of just 5 people should not allow a group of social justice thugs to steamroll over the community in an attempt to forcefully make a 150 year old district change the name without public input. Our community deserves the respect of a public vote and a civil conversation on this matter.

I also feel that our Superintendent is not being forthcoming on the legal fees incurred thus far because of this matter and he is trying to hide the truth and he has grossly underestimated the cost to rename the school district and conveniently ignored that the school will also have to change it's name because he has his own agenda for pushing through the name change. The board should have all of these numbers before voting on any name changes.

I am offended and very concerned about the health of our community since the Change the name people say we are a "confederate outpost" and to have a board member's husband say that the people that want to keep the Dixie name are white supremacists and a hate group and threatens law suits to his wife's constituents just because he does not like the fact someone is posting the vile things he says on social media.. It is incredibly disturbing what this movement has done to our community and the people that want to change the name have stirred up more hate in our community than the name Dixie ever could.



**Change
The Name Of
Dixie School
District**

Tweets 257 Following 690 Followers 86 Likes 43 Lists 1 Follow

**Change The Name of
Dixie District**
@NewNameForDixie

Dixie School District was named after the Confederacy during the Civil War. It's time to change the name. The board vote is on Feb. 12. Please join us.

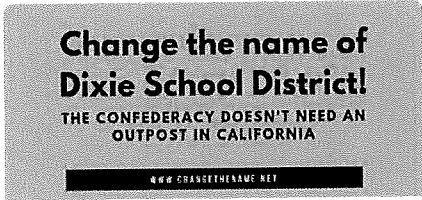
San Rafael, CA
changethename.net
Joined July 2018

[Tweet to Change The Name of D...](#)

Photos and videos

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Change The Name of Dixie District @NewNameForDixie · Jan 27
ACTION ALERT: Email Dixie School Board by 2/3. Tell them to change the name of the school district >> commentonpetitions@dixieschool.org



WeAreDixie is a hate group
Post by @dc_us.
nca-rds.org

dc @dc_us · 7h
The fact that humans spend so much time celebrating martyrs is disturbing and regressive AF.

dc @dc_us · 7h
Congratulations to Kamala Harris on her decision to pursue the presidency.

dc @dc_us · 7h
Members of the WeAreDixie group are white supremacists.

dc @dc_us · 7h
Twitter just contacted me requesting support information for my complaint against WeAreDixie.

It is a shame our community is being divided by misguided political activism when we have always been so close and proud. Changing the name of the school district will not help one child but it certainly will teach them that if you are a thug and use bully tactics you can get your way. If the name changes it should not be like this. Let our community decide and vote.

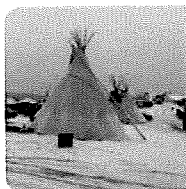
Thank you,

Steve Adelmann

Resident of the 94903 and local parent in the Dixie District



WeAreDixie is a hate group



WeAreDixie is a hate group

Post by @dc_us.

nci-des.org



dc @dc_us · 7h

The fact that humans spend so much time celebrating martyrs is disturbing and regressive AF.



dc @dc_us · 7h

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dc @dc_us · 7h

Twitter just contacted me requesting support information for my complaint against WeAreDixie.



**Change
The Name Of
Dixie School
District**

Tweets 257 **Following** 690 **Followers** 86 **Likes** 43 **Lists** 1 [Follow](#)

Change The Name of Dixie District

@NewNameForDixie

Dixie School District was named after the Confederacy during the Civil War. It's time to change the name. The board vote is on Feb. 12. Please join us.

San Rafael, CA

changethename.net

Joined July 2018

[Tweet to Change The Name of D...](#)

[Photos and videos](#)

Tweets **Tweets & replies** **Media**

Pinned Tweet



Change The Name of Dixie District @NewNameForDixie · Jan 27

ACTION ALERT: Email Dixie School Board by 2/3. Tell them to change the name of the school district. >> commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Change the name of Dixie School District!

THE CONFEDERACY DOESN'T NEED AN
OUTPOST IN CALIFORNIA

WWW.CHANGETHENAME.NET



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie name change

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 10:47 AM

To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear Board Members

We have lived in Marinwood for 45 years and one of us (David) served as a Director of the Marinwood Community Services District for 25 years. So we do appreciate your service to the community as members of the Dixie School Board.

We have always been extremely proud of the Dixie School District. Our four children attended Dixie Schools and two of our grandchildren are currently enrolled.

We see absolutely **no reason to change** the Dixie name. It represents excellence in education and we are very strongly opposed. At the very least we should be given the opportunity vote on the issue rather than be bulldozed into it by activists who for the most part do not live in the district.

We therefore respectfully request that you honor the previous Board's vote to place the question of name change on the 2020 ballot.

Richard and Joan Mitchell
 1000 Library Road, San Rafael



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie- the name we have grown up and love

1 message

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@hotmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)>
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org> Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 10:28 AM

Dear Board Members,

I attended the recent Board Meeting just to see what was going on with the Dixie Community. I personally attended Dixie Elementary as a child and my own children also attended. I have been room mom, math volunteer, reading volunteer yard duty and much more. The song We are Dixie represents the meaning of how the school is like family to all, regardless of ethnicity!! Every assembly at school started with that song, "I'm glad to be at Dixie and I'm glad I'm me" all the children and faculty singing together, bringing our hearts together in all our diversity!! I cannot believe how a few, very noisy, new members of the community can be so divisive. Worse than that I have a hard time believing that this issue might not go through democratic process of a full community vote. While there are some who have hypothesized that the Dixie name might have ties to racial parts of our history, do we really know this as fact? The school, how it is run, students in their inclusivity, and parents being such strong proponents of a phenomenal volunteer network, that make us a distinguished school, represent a positive history for all. Please do not let a few misguided people rule the community we worked so hard to build. Let us come together again and take a community vote. We are strong, yes sometimes quiet but always faithful, truly, we are Dixie!

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, Ca 94903

Homeowner and resident of 53 years
Girl Scout Leader
4-H Leader
Mom of 4 Dixie Kids



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

School Name Change Research

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 10:12 AM

Dear Dixie School District Board Members,

Over the past few months, I have researched several schools throughout the nation that have grappled with name changes. It's been an interesting project.

What I have concluded is that schools named for **military officials in the Confederate Army** are those most likely to change the names. There has been pushback, but not enough to sway the general opinion that the names should change. This makes sense to me.

On the other hand, schools named for slave owners who were also major contributors to American history, even "Founding Fathers", have rarely faced name change challenges. One example is Thomas Jefferson. The Smithsonian did an interesting article from which I copied this excerpt:

"Jefferson owned slaves. He did not believe that all were created equal. He was a racist, incapable of rising above the thought of his time and place, and willing to profit from slave labor."

Link to article: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/founding-fathers-and-slaveholders-72262393/>

We are all aware of the many schools and monuments named for Thomas Jefferson.

Interestingly, I could not find one school bearing the name of a **region** that was challenged.

If, in fact, Dixie was named for the southern states, which has not been definitively substantiated, it would be a first - as far as I am able to determine. For example, a university bearing the name of a previously slave owning state, such as the University of Georgia, has never been asked to change its name.

I hope you find the following article of interest.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Rafael 94903

In Debate Over Names, History and Race Relations Collide

Harvard grapples with titles and symbols associated with the legacy of slavery

Excerpt:

“Still, Faust said she would oppose changing other symbols or names at Harvard—like Mather House—because of their potentially troubling historical origins. Increase Mather, the namesake of Mather House and an early Harvard president, owned slaves.

“I think if you erase the whole past, it’s too easy to feel innocent. It’s too easy to not learn from it and to think that you’re not going to make any mistakes in the present—you’re better than those mistakes. We’re not better than those mistakes,” she said. “Someone 200 years from now is going to wonder something about us—why we’re eating meat, why we’re doing things that we’re doing. And we have to be self-critical enough not to just assume that we’re so much better than people who had to make decisions under different circumstances and in different times.”

Faust taught American history at the University of Pennsylvania for more than two decades and has published a series of award-winning books about the antebellum-era American South and the Civil War. In December, Faust published an article titled “John Hope Franklin: Race & the Meaning of America” in the New York Review of Books, in which she wrote about the importance of complete historical understanding. In the article, Faust explores Franklin’s legacy for unflinching historical scholarship about racial inequality in America and the importance of history to modern discussions about race.”

<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2016/1/19/faust-name-title-changes/>

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DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Dixie Board should stay true to their responsibilities as stewards of our children's education.

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org


Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 10:12 AM

Dear Board Members,

Please see the attached letter. It requests that the Board honor the previous decision to allow the community an unbiased and democratic opportunity to voice their opinion through a ballot. It also respectfully asks that you return to your primary responsibilities as the stewards of our children's education.

Sincerely,



 **Letter to Dixie School Board re name change Jan 30 2019.pdf**
298K

[REDACTED]
Lauren Wenzel

[REDACTED]
Mount Whitney Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

[REDACTED]
wenzel@gmail.com

January 30, 2019

Dixie School District Board
380 Nova Albion Way
San Rafael, CA 94903

via email correspondence to : commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Re: Dixie Board should stay true to their responsibilities as stewards of our children's education.

After moving from Australia, and spending 9 years in San Francisco, my family moved to Lucas Valley primarily because of the stellar reputation of the Dixie School District, and the sense of community. We were thrilled to discover a place where our children could walk to school, play with their neighbors and where the community was connected to each other, despite differences.

Recent events, however, have left me incredibly concerned that the school district board is being distracted from its primary responsibility. It saddens me to see the angst and discord amongst neighbors, many of whom I now consider to be friends.

To be frank, I do not have an attachment to the name Dixie, nor do I find it offensive. I do care deeply however, that my children receive the best possible education, that the limited resources of money, energy and time are used appropriately, that the community is actively engaged and respected, and that elected officials act in a responsible and transparent manner that reflects their sworn duties.

As a community member, tax payer and active volunteer at Dixie Elementary School, **I implore you to stay true to your primary responsibility as the stewards of our children's education. I believe that the resolution passed by the board in November to hold an advisory ballot in 2020 is the best possible way to allow the community an unbiased and democratic opportunity to voice their opinions. I urge you to allow the community to establish if the name represents who we are. In the meantime, I respectfully ask that you return to your elected duties.**

As a speech pathologist who has always worked in the fields of special and additional needs, I am a strong believer in, and advocate for inclusion and equality, and believe there are many practical and actionable changes that could be made that would improve outcomes for students and families, that are in no way connected to the name of the school district.

I recognize the large amount of time, and no doubt stress, that this issue has caused for the members of the board, and I do not wish to take up more unnecessary time during public meetings, when you

have other important issues to resolve. I do, however, want to ensure that you have the opportunity to hear from as many members of the community as possible.

I would like to thank you, for volunteering your time and considerable skills to trying to achieve what we all want; a peaceful and supportive community for our families and the best possible education for our children.

Sincerely,

A redacted signature consisting of two lines of blacked-out text. The top line is shorter and ends with a small, faint, curved mark. The bottom line is longer and more solid.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Letter to Dixie Board

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 9:07 AM

I was told that receipts of letters are acknowledged. Since I have not heard from you, I am resending. Thank you.

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board,

I urge each of you to look closely at this latest attempt to change the name of our school district.

This was an orchestrated, several months' long and carefully planned strategy by a small group of residents, including a Dixie Board member - with support from outside interest individuals and groups - all seeking to use racial division for strictly political purposes.

An effort to shame those who see nothing nefarious in the name Dixie is patently ridiculous in neighborhoods that have exhibited nothing but inclusion, acceptance and cohesion.

To change the district's name would only serve to create further emotional turmoil, divert focus from the children and their education, and embolden the political ambitions of some who use divisive tactics for personal gain.

Having been born in the South, Louisiana, and having lived in many states and countries, including the Philippines and France, my views are formed from acceptance of all nationalities and races. I have never, in the 40 years I have lived in Marin County, witnessed blatant racism. I would be the first to call it out, if I had.

To create chaos and division where none existed is wrong.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
San Mateo, California

San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District - We Are Dixie

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 2:58 AM

To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

To the Dixie School District Board of Directors:

While campaigning for the Dixie School Board in 2015, Marnie Glickman Curtis stated that a district name change was not her priority. Marnie Glickman Curtis was duly elected by the people to serve the children of the Dixie School District.

Instead of serving the children of the Dixie School District, Marnie Glickman Curtis lied. Marnie Glickman Curtis declared war on Dixie. For Marnie Glickman Curtis, hating Dixie is not the only thing, it is everything. Marnie Glickman Curtis is sick and she is unfit to serve as a Board Member. Marnie Glickman Curtis's toxic jihad has caused chaos in our bucolic school district. Adding more rancor, Marnie Glickman Curtis recruited a Dixie Hate Group, consisting of outside agitators, and called in press coverage of themselves flambostulating their sanctimonious political correctness.

We have learned that the name Dixie has nothing to do with the KKK, slavery, or the Confederacy. Native American Miwok Marge Grow Eppard testified her ancestor, Mary Dixie, was inspiration for the name Dixie. Marnie Glickman Curtis and The Dixie Hate Group are an outrageous insult to these proud and humble Native Americans.

To mollify Marnie Glickman Curtis, in November 2018, the Dixie School Board voted 4-1 to let the 14,200 members of the community decide on Dixie. They are the hard working taxpayers with children attending the Dixie schools.

Guess who was the only vote against a community vote? Marnie Glickman Curtis.

Obviously, Marnie Glickman Curtis and her Dixie Hate Group knows a community vote will fail. Like a spoiled child who didn't get their way, the temper tantrum continues. Now Marnie Glickman Curtis and The Dixie Hate group are pressuring the Board to overturn the November 2018 ruling.

Marnie Glickman Curtis and the Dixie Hate Group's politically correct circus has done absolutely nothing whatsoever to benefit the children of the Dixie School District. Instead, Marnie

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Dixie School District - We Are Dixie

Glickman Curtis and the Dixie Hate Group are an embarrassment, primarily to themselves.

The Board voted 4-1 to let the community decide on Dixie, and not Marnie Glickman Curtis and the Dixie Hate Group and her media circus. I urge you to go forward with this decision for a community Advisory Ballot in 2020.

A dastardly decision was made to discard all letters on this matter that were submitted before January 24, 2019. That really stinks. In contrast, the Dixie Hate Group petitions that were submitted before January 24, 2019 are still valid.

Thank you for your service to the children of the school district.

This letter is in compliance with all the strict rules:

1. Submitted between January 24, 2018 and February 4, 2019.
2. Submitted by email to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org
3. Name and address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94123



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Letter to district

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Tue, Jan 29, 2019 at 9:12 PM

Dear Dr. Yamashiro,

As a parent of two students here in the district and resident of Terra Linda, I am writing on behalf of my family and other families in our community regarding the Dixie school district name change.

In short, my main concern is that all members of our community feel safe. Having a name that brings up negative feelings for anyone, especially given the history of this country and the current political climate is not acceptable. The systematic oppression of people of color and generations of historical trauma that black, Native American, Latinos and other groups have endured is an ugly part of our history and still exists. We can do our part to not perpetuate this in our community.

In order to promote tolerance and respect we need to listen to people and not discount their feelings and experiences. This is a valuable lesson for our children and I hope that we can support one another so that families from diverse backgrounds will feel welcome here. When we say that we support equity and inclusion in our schools, this should be put into action, not only discussed in meetings.

There seems to be quite a bit of denial and defensiveness around this issue here in my neighborhood. While many members of the community insist they are not racist, clinging to a name that is synonymous with the confederate south seems rather odd. While outright bigotry may be what some equate with racism, there are subtler forms. Privilege for some groups (e.g., white privilege) and oppression of others are certainly forces that are still present. The privilege to not have to think about how others may feel is one that I think many of us who grew up in white bodies often take for granted.

If there is one action that we can take in order to create a more respectful and inclusive atmosphere, the name change would be a step in that direction. I do believe that the majority of this community believes it is time for a change and are willing to listen and act. I support calling the district something neutral such as the proposed names Lucas Valley School District or Terra Linda School District. I hope that we can work together to make this change.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

-MLK Jr.

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people."

-MLK Jr



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep Dixie.....Dixie

1 message


Reply [REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Tue, Jan 29, 2019 at 5:32 PM

Attached is a letter urging the Dixie School Board to keep Dixie.....Dixie. If you cannot make that decision, please allow the community of approximately 14,000 people decide.

Thanks for listening,

[REDACTED] Proud former Dixie School District Board member

 January 28 Dixie letter.docx
13K

January 29, 2019

Dixie School District Board of Trustees

Where to begin???? At least 16 years ago two, very well spoken, gentlemen from Mill Valley approached the Board of Trustees proposing a district name change. After adding the subject item to a future agenda with further discussion, it was decided to keep the name as it is. There was no movement from the community to do otherwise. Everyone seemed satisfied with the decision and we moved on. Yes, I was a member of the Dixie School District Board at the time.

Fast forward to 2018.... My understanding is that the last group of somewhat seasoned Board members decided, rather than make the decision themselves, it would be put to a community vote in 2020. However, after the November 2018 election, with 2 brand new Board members, 13 petitions from 195 people....out of approximately 14,000 constituents in the Dixie district were submitted and the new Board stated that a decision would be made in February 2019. It is so irresponsible to make a decision this way on such a divisive topic. The community, will, hopefully realize that this is unacceptable.

As residents of the area, I'm sure you know that realtors love adding...Dixie School District to their ads. Not once have I ever heard that they lost a sale because of concerns about the name of the district. The Dixie community prided itself on very little drama, conflicts, divisiveness.....until now. Changing the name would benefit no one and continue to divide the community. I'm so very disappointed that our local politicians have chosen to make this a politically correct issue.

I've researched other Dixies in the country.....other than the south. Did you know that there is a Dixie National Forest in Utah, Dixie State University also in Utah, the Dixie Grill in Hawaii, a town called Dixie right here in California? There are Dixie Cups and Dixieland Jazz. The Glossary of Civil War terms has NO Dixie. There is the Dixie School District in Dixie, Washington. I called them to determine if there was ever any concern regarding the name....concerns about racism or white supremacy. The person I spoke to laughed. She said they love their name, love their district. It was named after the Dix family, nothing to do with the south, not that they care.

How about the other perspective? Should the Yankees change their name? Should we ban the song Yankee Doodle Dandy because it's part of history that some people don't agree with? Some people didn't particularly agree with the policies of President Bush. Does that mean we should change the name of those plants outside your house? Do you see how ridiculous this has become?

My family moved from Terra Linda 4 years ago, however, lived there for 31. We raised our children in the Dixie District, were very active in all phases of our children's education and

thrilled to be part of the Dixie School District, proud to tell people where our children went to school. Seriously, we have so many more significant issues in our community such as teen suicide, drugs, smoking, hungry and homeless kids.....yes, in Dixie.

The name change has sparked more hatred than the name ever did. This only separates the community inciting bullying and divisiveness amongst the kids...forcing them to take the sides of their parents....over what? A name change is no benefit to a single student.

Please.....listen to ALL your constituents, ask good questions and make an informed decision that will be good for the Dixie School District moving forward.....but, most especially for the kids. Please, keep Dixie.....Dixie.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED], Proud former Dixie School District Trustee 1995-2003

[REDACTED]
10 Oak Shade Lane

Novato, California 94945