



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie name change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 11:12 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear members of the school board,

I am a resident in the area covered by the Dixie School District. My daughter attended Mary Silvera and Miller Creek schools.

The name "Dixie" for a school district needs to be changed.

1. The name evokes the worst of all American history- slavery
2. Discussions of name change have brought the name and it's connotations to everyone's conscience now.
4. It is clear the name is deeply upsetting to members of our community, for good reason.
5. It is very poor to model hurtful behavior to others in front of our community's children.
6. Modeling hurtful behavior sends a message that it is ok to do so.
7. Schools struggle with bullying across our nation. Our local school district is no different in its struggles.

We are hurting our community's children by keeping the blatant racist name as our district name.

What a fantastic opportunity we have to:

1. Right a wrong
2. In the process model for our community children how to make amends, how to act kindly towards our neighbors, how to stand up for what is right and how to always keep an open mind to learning from others.

I have read objections that name change would rob money from programs like anti- bullying. Putting name change front and center would be a much more powerful, personal message and experience for our children.

My history:

1. As a fourth grader, the National media descended on my school, covering the first school district in the nation to voluntarily choose integration. This was done by busing African American children to upper middle class white schools (but not white children away from their communities). I learned a lot about prejudice at that time. I thought I understood prejudice then. I did not
2. I adopted my daughter, a baby of color. Watching how people treated her and us, I thought I understood prejudice. I did not.
3. I treated elder African Americans for PTSD from seeing family and neighbors lynched in the South. African Americans migrated to our area for more than jobs. Often they fled for their lives.

In trying to treat these neighbors of ours, I though I understood predjudice. I did not.

As a white person in this white dominant culture, I can only make a commitment to keep learning. I will never really understand color predjudice but I definitely understand predjudice based on sex.

Our local newspaper has recently reported on how 'white' our county is. There is much we tend to be blind to because we generally are in the dominant white culture. A name change is an excellent way to help us be in the real American world, encourage a more diverse population to join us here in Marin and enjoy what diversity can bring.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Need to Change the Name of Our School District NOW

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 10:30 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

C: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I am the father of two children who are currently attending school in the Dixie School District. I urge you to address this issue for once and for all. The name "Dixie" is not representative of this community. We can and must do better. A refusal to change the name would be equivalent to endorsing it. Sometimes it only takes a few brave people in positions of power to right a wrong of many years. Be the strong leaders we need you to be.

Thank you for your service!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and Robin Norris



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please Keep our beloved Dixie school district name

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 10:24 PM

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

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board:

My name is [REDACTED] I have been living in the Dixie school district area for over 25 years, I have a son that graduated from Dixie a couple years ago and a second son currently attending Miller Creek Middle School.

First, I 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. My heart aches over how this community, our schools, our neighbors, and our children have been raked through the coals in this "debate." The Change the Name activists, led by Trustee Marnie Glickman, have created more hate in this community than the Dixie name ever could.

The Dixie Community that I know is warm, welcoming, inclusive and generous. Our award-winning Dixie Schools are staffed with top-notch teachers and staff who are there for the kids, whatever their needs and backgrounds. Parents and others in the community volunteer in classrooms and generously fund art, music, technology and other programs through CanDo. We support parcel tax measures because we know that our Board will allocate the District's limited financial resources wisely.

What is the point of changing the name of the district? Not a single child will receive any tangible benefit. However, our children are already learning that bullying and intimidation can win the day. I want my community back!

I sincerely hope that you make the right decision for our community and our children. Let the community decide this issue through the 2020 advisory ballot issue.

Sincerely,

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED], [REDACTED], CA 94903



Please_Keep_Our_Dixie.docx

14K

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board:

My name is [REDACTED] I have been living in the Dixie school district area for over 25 years, I have a son that graduated from Dixie a couple years ago and a second son currently attending Miller Creek Middle School.

First, I 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. My heart aches over how this community, our schools, our neighbors, and our children have been raked through the coals in this "debate." The Change the Name activists, led by Trustee Marnie Glickman, have created more hate in this community than the Dixie name ever could.

The Dixie Community that I know is warm, welcoming, inclusive and generous. Our award-winning Dixie Schools are staffed with top-notch teachers and staff who are there for the kids, whatever their needs and backgrounds. Parents and others in the community volunteer in classrooms and generously fund art, music, technology and other programs through CanDo. We support parcel tax measures because we know that our Board will allocate the District's limited financial resources wisely.

What is the point of changing the name of the district? Not a single child will receive any tangible benefit. However, our children are already learning that bullying and intimidation can win the day. I want my community back!

I sincerely hope that you make the right decision for our community and our children. Let the community decide this issue through the 2020 advisory ballot issue.

Sincerely,

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] 206 San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the name

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 10:00 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope you change the "Dixie" name. It's imperative, important and necessary. It would be a teachable moment to our youth. Question: why is it so important? Answer: Dixie is an ugly word. The background of this word dates back to the Confederacy days when racism was apparent and widespread. Racism is real and unfortunately here in progressive Marin County too.

Being a person of color, I strongly feel there should be compassion behind how this word curdles our skin when we hear this word. I grew up here in Marin and still feel racism. This word, this controversy, brings racism up all over again.

Please listen to the people.
Please care.
Please make a difference.

Thank you.





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

Dixie School District Name Change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:18 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School Board Members,

I am writing this letter to request that you please consider changing the current name of our school district to one that is more inclusive of our community as a whole.

It is so sad that we are even having a debate about this.

Let's choose a name that we can all be proud of. One that is celebratory of this beautiful area that we live in and that is free of any negative associations to any members of our lovely school and neighborhood community.

I would like to personally support the name Miller Creek Elementary School District.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name Change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:12 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School Board Members,

I am writing this letter to request that you please consider changing the current name of our school district to one that is more inclusive of our community as a whole.

It is so sad that we are even having a debate about this.

Let's choose a name that we can all be proud of. One that is celebratory of this beautiful area that we live in and that is free of any negative associations to any members of our lovely school and neighborhood community.

I would like to personally support the name Miller Creek Elementary School District.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email is ONLY for the person(s) named in the message header. Unless otherwise indicated, it contains information that is confidential, privileged or exempt from disclosure under applicable law.

If you have received it in error, please notify the sender of the error and delete the message.

Thank you. l



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the district's name

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 8:55 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Members of the Dixie School Board,

As a former student of the Dixie School District, I request that you change the name to one without the racist implications of the word 'Dixie'.

I remember a previous effort to change the name while I was a student. One teacher assigned the class a persuasive essay on the subject, and the class (including myself) overwhelmingly wanted to keep the current name. Our reasoning for this will sound familiar to anyone who has followed similar controversies regarding Confederate symbolism: this is part of our identity, it doesn't represent hate to us, changing it would bother me.

But just as in the case of flying the Confederate flag or displaying statues of Confederate leaders, this reasoning is flawed. These symbols, including the name "Dixie", are rightly associated with some of the most shameful aspects of this county's history. This history should not be forgotten, but neither should it be celebrated. The flags we fly, the statues we display, the names we call our institutions may seem inconsequential, but they signal to others what sort of people we are and what sort of society we want to live in. Please ensure that the school district you manage isn't sending the wrong signals.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 8:48 PM

To the Dixie School Board of Trustees,

What's next? A ban on playing music by the Dixie Chicks? A ban on the use of Dixie cups at a school picnic? This has become such an overblown issue brought on and festered by a small number of people, most of which I believe do not even reside within this school district.

I support the Board's decision to put the matter of changing the name of the Dixie School District to a vote of the residents.

This matter has already created a division within our community and cast aspersions on the good people living here. As more and more politicians and outside activists get involved, the issue will become more polarizing. Should the Board make a decision without seeking community input that division will worsen.

One of the great strengths of the Dixie School District over the years has been the degree to which parents contribute time and money to support the work of the schools. If the community is not consulted, long-term dissatisfaction will likely impact volunteerism as well as the passage of future school bonds.

Hear the people—hold the vote.

Sincerely,


San Rafael, CA 94903

Parent of district students and resident since 2010.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

comment from a neighbor

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 8:47 PM

Dear Board Members,

I'm a neighbor who has lived in the Dixie District for about 20 years. I don't have children going to school now but I am aware of the arguments pro and con for a name change. I support the change because a name that is offensive and hurtful to any group, should be changed. As a member of a group that is still being discriminated against, I get it and for me this reason outweighs the local history of the name.

I hope for an outcome that will end this controversy so the community can begin to heal and move on.





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Comment On Dixie Name Change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 8:03 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support of changing the Dixie School District name. As I have expressed publicly already on Facebook, I don't believe the history controversy is relevant in the slightest to this conversation. Instead, to me, the only relevant question is - does the current name offend and diminish underrepresented members of our community and their children? We all know the answer - Yes! It does. And it has going back into the 1990s, if not even before that. For that reason alone, I urge you to vote to change the name.

My view is that the best and most viable name on the list of names suggested is Miller Creek Elementary School District. Not only is the name well-known in our community but it avoids the pitfalls of naming the district after a person or potentially controversial subject. Nearly every child and parent knows about Miller Creek and most of have played in it while at Marinwood Camp, enjoyed a concert in on the grass next to it, or explored it as a student at Miller Creek Middle School. It's known and loved by our community and it makes sense as a name.

I would be remiss to not say a few things about the dreaded word racism. I have been very distressed by the anger and defensiveness I see in our community on this issue and I don't think we are self-reflective enough when it comes to issues of race. I am of the mind that we will not be able to meaningfully discuss this issue as a community until we rethink the definition of racism. I think the book *White Fragility* has the best framework for this and I believe it should be mandatory reading for those of you with the power to make a vote here. According to the author, "the most effective adaptation of racism over time is the idea that racism is conscious bias held by mean people." This "good/bad binary," positing a world of evil racists and compassionate non-racists, is itself a racist construct, eliding systemic injustice and imbuing racism with such shattering moral meaning that white people, especially progressives, cannot bear to face their collusion in it." In other words, racism is not a conscious bias held by mean people, it is a deeply imbedded historical system of institutional power and *is unconscious*.

With this definition in mind, I am aware of and can accept the great historical and institutional benefit I enjoy being white and am therefore able to be more open-minded about the ways in which I unconsciously am racist or perpetuate racism. I also believe accepting and owning this is the first step in living an anti-racist life. I'm a work in progress on this and I imagine I will make many more mistakes in my words and actions going forward but I'm determined not to be defensive when confronted on this.

I also found this passage in the book to be profound and relevant to our community: "White progressives can the be most difficult for people of color because, to the degree we think we have arrived, we will put all of our energy into making sure that other see us as having arrived. None of our energy will go into what we need to be doing for the rest of our lives: engaging in ongoing self-awareness, continuing education, relationship building, and actual anti-racist practice. White progressives do indeed uphold and perpetuate racism, but our defensiveness and certitude make it virtually impossible to explain to us how we do so." Our Dixie community is so defensive when confronted with the possibility that racism exists around us or, god forbid, that we are participants in it, that we can't see, listen, or learn. Defensiveness is a textbook way for us to protect our racial bias while simultaneously affirming our identities as open-minded.

I believe until we truly rethink our definition of racism as a structure, as opposed to an event, we will not be able to discuss this issue in a real way and we won't ever be able to move towards being a truly inclusive community. Right now, our defensiveness and certitude at the mere mention of the word "racism" are making any meaningful discussion impossible and make inclusion a nice-sounding word, but not a reality for all.

I want to live in and for my kids to grow up in a TRULY inclusive community, not one that only includes white people on their terms. I see changing the Dixie name as an important first step in what I believe should be a continuing discussion in our community.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the Name

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 7:48 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Administrator,

I would like to request the school name be changed to something not related to oppression. Please reconsider removing the name Dixie.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie name change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 7:04 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

We have lived here for over 48 years. As long as we have lived here, Dixie school district has been known as one of the best. The reason it is one of the best is because of the quality of instruction. I have known so many teachers who taught at Dixie school and they work so well together & are so proud of their school & students. Dixie is just a name. A name that has been associated with quality education, that has bought people to the area just to be part of the system.

Anyone can find something wrong in almost anything and what a waste of time and energy. To change the name of the school & district because of a few fanatics is ridiculous. We are teaching the next generation that you can win if you yell the loudest & especially if you name racial inequality. We have 2 adopted grandsons from Ethiopia, so we are certainly aware of racial issues.

Let the community worry about real racial issues and not imagined ones.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School Name change

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 6:47 PM

I think so much of our history is being wiped out by thin skinned people who are looking way back at any and all things to be offended by! Do we want history to repeat itself? Absolutely not however, just because a few think this name is offensive doesn't mean it should be changed. What a waste of time and money! I'm offended by that. Honestly, can't we think of better ways to draw a community together in a positive way.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Feb 12 district naming vote

1 message

[Redacted sender name]

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 5:24 PM

To: Commentonpetitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

To whom it may concern,
I urge you to change the name of our district to one that is neutral; one that cannot evoke pain, suffering or fear in anyone in our community. A future popularity vote/ referendum just kicks the can down the road and adds to divisiveness. Please do the right thing now and settle this permanently.

[Redacted]
For 30 years a [Redacted]
San Rafael



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the name of Dixie School District

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 5:21 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to ask you to right a wrong by changing the name of the Dixie School District. We can no longer ignore the microaggressions that people of color experience every day because too many of us accept hurtful names and images as "the way it's always been."

We need new paradigms in Marin, in California and in the USA. We need to ensure that the names and images that we embrace are respectful and inclusive.

I am fine with any of the proposed names as long as members of the Miwok People approve of that name. Otherwise, I think either Big Rock or Live Oak would be a good name for the school district.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

[REDACTED]
San Rafael



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie -let's vote on it in 2020

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 4:49 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

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. Both of our children attended Dixie School as well as middle school and high school in the area. The name was always synonymous with inclusivity and an excellent education. How did we get to this appalling state of affairs that created such animosity in the community? 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.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

No Dixie

1 message

[REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 4:41 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Please rename the school. There is no room for this type of obvious and downright segregationist monicker.

Sent from my iPhone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Support

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 4:24 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Please review my attached letter in support of the current school district name.

--

[REDACTED]
"life is better with dazzlingteeth"



Dixie Support 19-1-28.pdf

1272K

KURT D. MITCHLER

5085 Lavender Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
c-707-292-5406
kurt@dazzlingteeth.com

January 28, 2019

Superintendent Yamashiro and board,

As a local homeowner, I write to you in support of maintaining the current name of the school district.

Person 1 "that name makes me uncomfortable"

Person 2 "yes, but it has nothing to do with that"

1 "but it makes me uncomfortable"

2 "it has nothing to do with that"

1 & 2 on and on.....

Both are right. One is based on emotion, the other based on facts.

I would assume decisions are determined by facts.

The basis of prejudice is emotion without facts.

When I purchased my home on [REDACTED] Road in the 80's, the attraction the school district created added value to my home, as well as a desire to have my children grow up in this community.

I continue to be part of the community providing housing to numerous families, all of whom sought to live in the district that would provide the best educational opportunity.

Over 30 years of connection to this school district and it is only recently that any negative connotation could be derived from this esteemed district.

Please, leave it up to your constituents to make the decision regarding any name change.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the name!

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 4:20 PM

Please change the name from Dixie school!

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the name

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 4:06 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Please believe people who say that this name is hurtful to them. It is not hurtful to me, but I have had the experience of words, jokes, and gestures that others may consider harmless but which strike me painfully and limit my ability to function at my full capacity. Don't make the name of our district something that people have to overcome in order to fully participate. Don't let it continue to be something that causes pain to any of our families.

Thank you for considering,


Mary Silveira parent







Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

We Are Dixie

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 2:52 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I am writing to say I support the We Are Dixie group! I've been a Marinwood resident for over forty years. I went to the Dixie School, as did my grandmother in the 1890's. Dixie to me means my teacher Mrs. Leary, who later became Mrs. Burke. Wonderful, wonderful memories. My husband attended Mary Silveira on opening day and now my three grandchildren go to this school. In all the years I've lived here I've never associated the name with anything bad. I feel sorry for those it has.

The Change the Name group has said many hateful, hurtful, and untrue things, implying that by supporting the name of our district, we are therefore white supremacists. I am more than surprised by the lengths (national and local media), the negativity, shameful and name calling tactics they have used to try to frighten and impose their position on the community. These actions should not be used by anyone representing our district and our children.

The Dixie name itself has been used in many facets, including store products, towns, street names, music groups, names of pets, and more. To our small community, it represents a place where we value families, quality education, and a place where everyone is welcome to live and enjoy a safe and peaceful home.

I hope this letter helps in understanding my position on why I want to keep our district name.

Thank you,

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



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

Response To Petitions

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 2:33 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School Board Members-

I hope that you will uphold the vote at the December meeting. The petitions that have been presented to you to change the name of the Dixie School District represent a very small number of opinions. I believe the majority of people who live in the district do not want the name changed and at the very least we should be allowed to vote on this issue. Please do not let a small few decide what is best for our community.

Changing our school district's name will not change anything. It will only waste more of your time and cost money that could be spend on our children.

Thank you,


San Rafael, Ca. 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please make the right decision

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 1:46 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

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 Distract 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/>

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Please make the right decision

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

Sincerely,


Dixie School District Alumni


San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change comment

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 12:05 PM

[Redacted]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dixie Board Members,

While I am against the name change attempt by what appears to be a few people from Mill Valley/Tiburon/SF, I will accept the will of the voters in the Dixie School District. What I won't accept is all of you going around us and deciding on your own. Unless I missed something when all of you were running (if so, please point it out), I don't recall a name change being mentioned.

Both my boys attended Dixie and Miller Creek. They received a fine education and are now studying at Cal and Cal Poly SLO. Regardless of whatever the name Dixie stood for thousands of miles away and 150+ years ago, what it exemplifies HERE, in San Rafael, is a quality education we can all be proud of.

[Redacted]
San Rafael
[Redacted]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

WE MOVED TO BE IN THE DIXIE DISTRICT

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 11:51 AM

When my kids were in elementary school we were very disappointed with the SR District so we moved across the highway in 2010 in order to be in Dixie.

Since then my 3 kids have gone to Mary Silveria, Miller Creek, all graduated from TLHS (Yes, I know it is SR) and successfully gone off to college.

There is a myriad of things to be concerned about but a name.

I vote with KEEP THE NAME and my guess is that PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT will VOTE to KEEP THE NAME.

Tell these outsiders to take a hike!

Thank you


San Rafael, CA 94903





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Re: Dixie School District possible name change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 11:44 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

San Rafael, California 94903

January 31, 2019

To: Dixie School District Board and Superintendent

Re: Dixie School District possible name change

Dear Recipients:

I believe that a direct vote by the people concerned, on issues such as District name change, is the purest and most accurate form of democracy. With representative democracy, here epitomized by the Dixie School Board, our representatives are often subject to various pressures which may distort or impair perceptions of what their constituency desires. We are fortunate, however, that a prior Dixie School Board has provided the means and opportunity for most accurately determining the wishes of those who reside in the Dixie School District. This opportunity, to resolve the issue of District name change through a direct vote of the people, should not be denied.

Further, the Dixie community should be allowed to weigh in on any name change. Many individuals have affection for the name Dixie. Their views should not be given less consideration than the views of those who profess to be offended by the name. It has been stated that the impetus for a name change stems from a clamorous minority. A direct vote will reveal the numerical strength of those who advocate name change, and whether they are really a minority.

A name change implemented solely by the School Board would be perceived by many as caving in to political pressure. Caving in equates with weakness; not with strong leadership. The fitness of Board Members choosing to deny their constituency a direct vote in resolving the name change issue could well be called into question. Their motives would be suspect.

An arbitrary decision by the School Board to change the Dixie name, while perhaps legal, would not be regarded as a valid reflection of popular sentiment by supporters of the Dixie name. A process to reverse the Board's decision would likely begin, thus perpetuating the issue rather than resolving it. A failure to resolve the issue, given the opportunity to do so, could well prove embarrassing to the Board. This would be most unfortunate.

In closing, I strongly recommend a direct vote by the people of Dixie on whether or not to change the District's name. It is the fairest and most accurate way of resolving the issue.

With all best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Fw: Dixie

1 message

[REDACTED] Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 11:25 AM
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

January 31, 2019

Dear Dixie School District Board of Directors,

As a former student and current home owner in the Dixie District I wish to express my concern over the issue of Dixie name change.

This district chose a name many years ago. It has never expressly been a statement of political support, but rather assumed to be named after Mary Dixie, a local native.

The settlers wiped out many of the local natives and now there is a move to wipe out a name made in honor of a local Miwok woman. Are you going to then change the school name Mary E Silveria or just the name of the (Mary) Dixie, the Native American? It is wrong of you to ignore and disregard the testimony of Miwok Marge Grow Eppard.

As a local, I resent the attention Marnie Glickman Curtis has raised toward our district. Many people from the outside now assume this name is confederate or slavery loving without being given all aspects of the historical context. This is NOT what a responsible board member should be promoting. It should be the education of children.

As board members your responsibility is the best education of the children. One aspect of that is being financially responsible. Should the board change the name, thousands upon thousands of dollars will go to changing envelopes, report cards, all of the many forms, school signs, vehicle logos, business cards and even more. Do you really believe funds should be directed away from the classroom for this?

Why did you discard all letters submitted prior to January 24th and allow the only the one sided petition? Fairness...I think not! I urge you to keep the name Dixie, or at least let the community decide with a community advisory ballot;another cost that comes from the classroom.

Should the name change, I intend to vote with my pocketbook. The senior parcel tax exemption for Dixie is \$352 per household. I will get exemptions (for Dixie, not San Rafael Schools) for myself and all my senior friends in the neighborhood. We support education but do not support using our tax dollars for label changes.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Novato

[REDACTED]
San Rafael



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Against Dixie name change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 10:47 AM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Hello-

I am a resident of Lucas Valley for almost 10 years. Both my kids attended Dixie elementary and Miller Creek Middle School. I am against the name change and against in how the process has been bombarded in our community. We moved here specifically for the Dixie District. I have never associated the name with racial injustice and neither have my children. I do not think the board is qualified to make this decision. I think it is horrible the way the other group has dragged as through the media as racists. Dixie district will always hold a special place in my heart because it is where my kids have gone and still go.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 10:47 AM


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

As a Marin resident, I am writing to ask that the Dixie School District change its name due to its racist roots and its association with the Confederacy. For a county that is renowned for its liberal and progressive values, I find it shocking and appalling that this a controversy at all.

Then again, white people in Marin like to talk a big game, but when it actually comes down to taking action and making real change, we tend to play very small. It's time we start walking the walk and show our sisters and brothers of color in this community that we care about them and that their voices, and lives matter.

It's so clear to me that the people who are outraged by the idea that we might change the Dixie name, claiming that it's ridiculous and unnecessary, understand very well just how much power there is in a name. Otherwise, they would not be upset by this proposal.

Let's show our children what caring for our community looks like. Let's show our children what it means to practice what we preach. Let's show our children that sometimes, doing the right thing can be hard and sometimes uncomfortable, but that that discomfort is necessary and essential in order for growth and change to occur. Let's show our children that when everyone has a seat at the table, we are all better for it.

Change the name.

Sincerely,





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Comments on Name Change Issue

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 10:23 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Trustees,

I am attaching a letter in support of changing the name of our school district. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

District resident and parent of two children attending district schools



Letter to Dixie District Board Jan. 2019, [Redacted]

17K

January 31, 2019

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

Dear Trustees:

Thank you for serving on the Dixie District School Board and for your commitment to our community. Two years ago, our family moved to San Rafael from Alexandria, Virginia. We were thrilled to find a welcoming community at Mary Silveira Elementary School. Yet, we were puzzled as to why a school district in Marin County would be named the Dixie School District.

The only thing more unexpected than the Dixie name was learning that there was opposition to changing the name. Because the District prides itself on being an inclusive and progressive community, it is surprising that the name hasn't been changed during previous efforts to do so. Now that the Marin Community Foundation has offered to pay for the name change, cost is no longer an issue.

I have lived in the South and can say that there is nothing benign about "Dixie". Witnessing blatant racism was deeply unsettling. Sadly, the incidents are too numerous to recount. Because of these experiences, I cannot suspend the belief that our Dixie School District in San Rafael does not have any connection to the Southern Confederacy.

Keeping the name "Dixie" serves to honor the Confederacy, rather than recognizing its hateful and dark history. Further, it communicates the message that not all members of our community matter. Re-naming the district Live Oak Valley Elementary School District would not detract from the excellence of the district. Changing the name is the only way to eliminate the pain and confusion caused by "Dixie".

In the spirit of unifying the community, I also signed the Mary Dixie Elementary School District petition. However, I regret doing so as I believe that most people will simply call the district Dixie instead of Mary Dixie. Thus, a controversial name would be replaced by an equally problematic one. The name "Dixie" would continue to be painful and offensive to many members of our community.

I am hopeful that you will seize the opportunity to teach the children of the Dixie School District that words matter. Until you change the name, you will be unable to focus on the Board's stated goal of "providing the best education and learning experience for the children who attend schools in the district".

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Fwd: Leave the name alone

1 message

[Redacted]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:40 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted]
Date: Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 8:51 AM
Subject: Leave the name alone
To: <achacko@dixieschooldistrict.org>, <brad.honsberger@gmail.com>, <mhutchinson@dixieschooldistrict.org>, <bnguyen@dixieschooldistrict.org>, <jyamashiro@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear Superintendent and Board members,

I ask that you follow through on your decision reached at your meeting in November 2018. There have been many arguments raised by those supporting a name change, none of which I feel are particular compelling. My two daughters received a wonderful education both at Dixie School and Miller Creek Middle School. They both went on to achieve honors at graduation from their respective colleges. To change the name of their school and school district sends a terrible message. That message being that because a small number of individuals, some living far away can influence what should be a local decision.

The origin of how the school and district came to be named Dixie will forever remain a mystery. A name change will not change history nor should it.

[Redacted]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Comment on Proposed Names

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:39 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Cc: Brad Honsberger <brad.honsberger@gmail.com>, achacko@dixieschooldistrict.org, Brooks Nguyen <brookscnguyen@gmail.com>, Roxana Ascencio <rascencio@dixieschooldistrict.org>, meganhutchinson24@gmail.com

Dear Governing Board of Dixie School District,

The principle "First, do no harm" should not just apply to physicians who have taken the Hippocratic Oath. Our entire society would be better served if this tenet were adopted by other professions – especially politicians. As members of the Dixie School Board, I am hopeful you will "first, do no harm" when you decide whether to change our school district's name.

If the Board rules to not change the name, this issue will continue to fester. The umbrage of those genuinely offended by connotations of the word "Dixie" and the divisive tactics of those determined to shame Marin County for unrelated, perceived slights will escalate. The tone of on-line posts and the fact that local women opposed to the name change are being harassed by extremist elements of the "Change the Name" movement should give you a sense of where this debate is headed if decisive action is not taken.

If the Board rules to change the name, it risks erasing the Dixie School District's name-recognition as one of the top school districts in the state, a hard-earned reputation that has benefited local property values and students transferring to private schools. Changing the name will anger those concerned with the costs associated with the change, which will ultimately be borne by our children, since much-needed education funds will be diverted to cover the costs associated with the change. While the Marin Community Foundation has generously offered to pay approximately \$18,000 toward this effort, the estimate upon which the offer was based obviously did not include legal fees or address how the likely cost overruns would be handled. As someone who works with the legal community on construction projects that exceeded estimated budgets, I can assure you that the costs will exceed \$18K due to unanticipated items and the fact that attorneys routinely burn through \$18K in one week, let alone the months it would take to execute this change with all state and local agencies. At the January 15th meeting, I met the District's attorney from Lozano Smith – his time for that meeting alone must have cost \$1,500. Further, an entirely new name will likely anger those who believe the District is named after a Miwok woman (Mary Dixie) – such a change would be yet another in a long history of slights to Miwok-Americans.

The proposed ballot initiative in 2020 will only kick the can further down the road and based on the reported number of "We Are Dixie" supporters, is unlikely to result in a conclusion to our long, local nightmare. Do we really want to be dealing with this issue for two more years? If a name change is rejected by District voters, can you imagine ten more years of this insanity?

After reviewing the list of proposed names, there is only one option that will allow our community to put this fiasco behind us once and for all – change the name of the Dixie Elementary School to the **Mary Dixie Elementary School** and the Dixie Elementary School District to the **Mary Dixie Elementary School District**. Each of the other proposed names are problematic, and it is unfortunate that in the many years this issue has been pursued, this is the best the "Change the Name" movement could come up with. The other options: are used by other nearby schools and districts, which would create confusion and erode our district's reputation; honor individuals responsible for selecting the name "Dixie" (Miller) or those with yet to be discovered skeletons in their closet (Lucas); give preferential treatment to one of the three District communities; are not representative of our community; could create legal challenges over trademarked material; open the District to accusations of "Native mascotry" (a term coined by Jacqueline Keeler, a Navajo/Yankton Dakota Sioux) creating a new debate that numerous sports teams named after Native American tribes are currently having.

Naming the district and elementary school after Mary Dixie, a local Miwok woman, will end this controversy at minimal cost to the District and most importantly, it will **"do no harm."** The Mary Dixie name would represent a compromise – and true to a successful compromise, both sides may be unhappy with the result. However, based on the feedback received during my limited effort gathering petition signatures for the Mary Dixie option, the majority of District voters will be relieved that this matter has ended with minimal impact to funds dedicated to the education of our children while preserving the name-recognition benefits associated with our district's reputation for excellence.

As I informed the Board previously, I procured the MaryDixieSchoolDistrict.org and MaryDixieSchool.org domain names and will donate them to the District. Below are the steps I recommend for implementing the Mary Dixie name change:

1. The Board votes to adopt the new name (cost: \$0.00);
2. I transfer ownership of the domain names to the District (cost: \$0.00);
3. The District incorporates the new names into all e-mail communication signature blocks (cost: \$0.00 and 2-minutes of administrative time per employee);
4. The District transfers email and websites to the new domain addresses (2 hours of web administrator's time);
5. The District orders new supplies (e.g., letterhead) with the new name as existing supplies run out (\$0.00 in additional costs);
6. Change existing Dixie signage (\$0, since \$18K has been offered by the Marin Community Foundation, but a minimal expense since much signage could altered to add the word "Mary");

2/5/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Comment on Proposed Names

7. Change the name with state and local agencies (\$TBD, but the unused balance of Marin Community Foundation funds could be used toward the legal fees required for this effort).

This approach will hopefully thread the needle of compromise (minimizing costs, preserving our district's name-recognition for excellence, honoring an historically mistreated minority group and removing the stigma associated with the word "Dixie"). The fact that this name was proposed by one of Mary Dixie's relatives at a recent school board meeting should ease any concerns over bestowing Mary Dixie with this honor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and, on behalf of the community, I am sorry so much of your valuable time has been spent dealing with this issue. In closing, I remind you that whatever you decide, "first, do no harm". **The name "Mary Dixie" does no harm.**

Sincerely,

 (on behalf of two Vallecito students)



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please keep the name "Dixie School"

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:29 AM

To:  commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I am writing to you as a person whose 3 children happily attended Dixie School. I would like to ask you to keep the name for a few reasons.

1. As a former marketing/p.r. person, the cost of changing the name will be immense and you'll keep on finding things you have to change and pay for.
2. I do not perceive a racial bias in the name as it came originally from a Miwok woman (or so I am informed in my reading).
3. There are many things to focus on for the children in the District and their primary education should be first and foremost.
4. A name change may be the focus of a few, but are affecting many and the publicity around it is confusing to the public.
5. Let the name stand, not only for those countless people who attended Dixie School but for the incurred costs to our community.

Thank you.





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

I implore you in the name of LOVE, change the name

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School board:

Please change the name of the school district. Named in 1863 by James Miller on a dare by his neighbors who were building the schoolhouse ^{1,2}, it is time to let go of "Dixie". His intent is lost in history and is argued today. The effect however remains. "Dixie" cannot be dressed up for me. I will share why below.

A new name should be one that the community can say with pride "I go to school in the xxx" district." I hope that you vote to change the name to Live Oak Valley Elementary School District or LOVE School District for short. I imagine the first people those many years ago coming over the hills and spying our valley. Seeing the abundant live oaks with a bounty of acorns for food. Streams full of fish. The feeling they must have felt was akin to Love. The words they used to name the place may be gone by that feeling remains. Love is what we came here for. Love is the opening door. Please vote for LOVE. Live Oak Valley Elementary School District.

Why "Dixie" can't be dressed up and should be changed. While the origination of the name for the Dixie School District is rooted in honoring the antebellum south, that is not the only reason "Dixie" is an offensive name to me and many people of color.

The root of my trepidation in 1989 about delivering my six year old son to a school named Dixie began when I was young.

When I was young we watched TV on one of three channels at night. I have a strong memory of all three channels telling the story of a young black boy, Emmett Till, being beaten and killed when he visited Dixie. His crime- he looked a white woman in the eye. I vividly remember the image of his badly beaten body in my mother's JET magazine. Killed in Dixie.

I was 8.

For the next 10 years all manner of abuse was heaped on people that looked like me by people in Dixie. In Sacramento, California I was an interested observer.

I watched as people all over Dixie resisted Brown V Education by any means possible. It played out on those three channels. Beatings, Riots, School Closings. I watched as people that looked like me were denied lunch rooms, clean toilets, clean water fountains throughout Dixie.

I listened as Senator James Eastland told the world that segregation would never end in Dixie. Followed by a host of Governors standing in school house entrances throughout Dixie proclaiming "We are Dixie" and vowing that people who looked like me would never enter their schools.

I watched as people who looked like me were dragged out of lunch counters just for sitting on a stool in Dixie. Throughout Dixie the inevitable change was resisted and fought by those that wanted to keep Dixie,

Dixie.

There are many more images of Dixie formed those years. Dixie was not a place I ever wanted to be.

That is what drives me to change this name. No person should feel any trepidation about delivering their child to school because of a name.

No teacher should ever feel any trepidation about working for a school district because of a name. Has that happened here? A question to ask is why has there been only one african american teacher in the history of the school district? Has a form of external restrictive covenants (the name of the "district) put trepidation in the mind of the potential applicant? By the way, Branson has three African American teachers.

A name change is the right thing to do. Now is the right time to change it.

[REDACTED]
Resident of District
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

¹ Attachment 1 - 1972 Dixie Schoolhouse application for Historical status. Ref page 5 paragraph 3

² Attachment 2 - Assessment of name history.

2 attachments



1972_National Registry of Historical Places_Dixie School House Application_12/26/1972.pdf
693K



CElliott-DixieSchoolDistNameHistEval-2018.pdf
145K



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Proposed Dixie District Name Change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:26 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board and Dr. Jason Yamashiro,

I am writing in support of changing the name of the Dixie School District. Our two daughters attended and graduated from Dixie Schools, our daughter is employed at Dixie School, and two of our grandchildren are students at Dixie School.

I favor the name change because the name "Dixie" is extremely hurtful to people of color, especially to African Americans, for whom "Dixie" means complete subjugation of body, mind and spirit. It is an increasingly embarrassing name, and I no longer feel any pride when I say that we are part of the "Dixie" School District. Changing the name is really a small thing to do with a very big payoff: reducing the pain of students of color and their families and increasing a feeling of community inclusion and support.

With symbols of the Confederacy being removed throughout the country, I feel that the time is right to change our school district's name. We would be remiss if we did not change it. To not change the name would be to willfully disregard the origin of the name Dixie and the pain that it causes those who best understand its meaning and history. Therefore, I ask you to please change the name.

I would further ask that students in the Dixie School District be given instruction on the meaning and origin of the name "Dixie," and that they be asked if they have any suggestions for a new name. There may be a need for a facilitator, if some parents loudly object.

This is an opportunity for you to do something that aids, comforts and heals wounded souls. Not many of us are given that great opportunity, and certainly there is stress during this time. But if you can successfully change the name of this District, you will have made your mark in history as public servants who have helped to create a "kinder, gentler" community and nation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] n Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change

1 message

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 8:46 AM

@dixieschooldistrict.org
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Come on now ... this is a no brainer ... please change your name to something you can be proud of.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the name.

1 message

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 10:14 PM

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

Dear Board Members,

I am sending this via email in addition to through the online form. There's no receipt setup, so I thought it wise to send it this way too. I did not mean to submit two letters, but wanted to be sure to have my opinion registered.

For the record, I am a District Parent - 3 kids have been through the district, 1 still is at Miller Creek. I am writing to express my support for changing the name and encourage you to pick the Live Oak Elementary School District as our future name.

I don't envy you for the decision that is before you. You are hearing so much from so many people with such strong feelings, it's obviously a complex decision facing you.

I know my voice is one of many and probably all you will do is check off that I am for changing the name (and perhaps what name I'd prefer), but I will take a moment to offer my perspective. I won't belabor the history or the connotations of the name we have. You all have heard so much about this over the past months. I will say for me the history locally is murky at best and has enough of a credible story connecting it to the confederate south that historical motivations should argue for change. The strained linkages to Mary Dixie should be set aside (and in fact are a form of appropriation of their own). The argument that the name is associated with an unblemished history of tolerance and inclusivity is also ahistorical given that every school in California was segregated until the 1960s, and it's a given that this community faced challenges in the move towards integration like so many others everywhere. Once we move past our local history and address this in the context of our community today, we have to confront the reality that for some significant number of our community members this name is deeply and painfully associated with the worst side of America - a side that lives on in parts of America today.

So what do we do in the face of a murky history, a tarnished name, and the clear pain endured by members of our community? We change the name of course.

When fire strikes a community, do we say, "The fire didn't burn my home, so I'm not going to do anything?" When a flood ruins our neighbors home do we look the other way count our blessings? No, we reach out and lend a hand, because when some among us suffer while we are spared, we feel compassion and we try to ease their burden.

I look at the name change the same way. My family has no (known) slave history. I have not been called names or followed in stores, or harassed by cops for the color of my skin. So I can't fully know the pain this name causes, but I can see it on the face of my neighbors. Will I suffer any real pain if the name changes? Will anyone who adores the name? Not really, not substantially, and not comparably to the pain our neighbors feel. So let's change the name, ease the pain and move on.

Finally, I'll note that as a practical matter, this has come up 4 times in a formal way over 20 years. It is unlikely that if you vote no it will not come up again and will continue to be divisive in our community. Why would such an issue resurface time and time again? Because it's intensely painful to some members of our community while for the rest of the community it's a name (with positive or neutral connotations). When a minority of people in a community have to swim upstream against something so deeply painful it takes time to rally after any setback, but it should be clear that those of us who advocate change will continue to rally.

So please board members do what's right even if it's not popular today and change the name to something that doesn't hurt some of us and that over time we can all embrace.

Thank you.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

A letter requesting a name change for our district

1 message

[Redacted]

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 9:44 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear School Board,

Thank you for your consideration of the attached letter written on behalf of Indivisible Marin's nearly 1,200 members.

Best regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

 Letter to Dixie District Board Jan. 30, 2019.pdf
67K



January 30, 2019

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

Dear Trustees:

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the Dixie School District. As school board members, you are vital to our public education system and represent the vision for our district.

I am writing on behalf of [REDACTED] a community of nearly 1,200 citizens committed to protecting American values of inclusion, equality and justice. Many of our members are residents of the Dixie School District. We stand with Congressman Jared Huffman, State Senator Mike McGuire, and numerous other elected officials and community leaders in asking that you to do what should have been done long ago - change the name of the school district.

While the name Dixie is part of the district's history, do you truly believe that it should be part of its future? Keeping the name "Dixie" serves to honor the Confederacy, rather than recognizing its hateful and dark history. Further, it communicates the message that not all members of our community matter. Changing the name is the only way to eliminate the pain and confusion caused by the name "Dixie."

We are in favor of re-naming the district Live Oak Valley Elementary School District. Oak trees are an iconic and majestic element of our landscape in Marin and lend themselves to wonderful imagery for our district's graphic identity.

We hope that you will seize this crucial opportunity to teach the children of the Dixie School District that words matter. Until you change the name, you will continue to be distracted by this controversy and therefore have difficulty focusing on the Board's stated goal of "providing the best education and learning experience for the children who attend schools in the district".

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]