



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep Dixie, Dixie!

1 message

Calvin G. Shea <gabeham@comcast.net>
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 11:27 PM

Dear Superintendent and Dixie School Board Members,

Attached is my letter on behalf of my husband and myself in favor of keeping the Dixie School District name. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



 **We Are Dixie.pages**
319K

Dear Dixie Board of Directors,

2/3/19

This all began with a request and petition on NextDoor from Bruce Anderson an African American member of our community to change the name of our school district. It has been thoroughly documented that the Dixie name refers to the pre civil war south which Mr. Miller came from. Mr. Anderson has said that he finds this name and it's symbolism hurtful to him. What has saddened and shocked me has been the reaction to Mr. Anderson's reasonable request. Rather than sign his petition (or not) and move on Mr. Anderson was bombarded with hatred, indignation, ridicule, insults and bullying. It continued in the Marin IJ against Mr. Noah Griffin who had made a reasonable supporting argument. Now there is an organization called We Are Dixie. They claim that Mr. Anderson is tearing our community apart yet the loud angry voices are coming from those who want to keep the Dixie name. If dates hadn't been attached to those posts one would have thought we were in segregated Alabama and Mr Anderson had asked to send his children to their all white school. I have seen no empathy for Mr. Anderson or any effort to meet him halfway. Instead they have thrown up fake alternate histories about a "Mary Dixie" and made up stories about "political ambitions" of change proponents. I thought I lived in a liberal and progressive paradise until these folks spoke out against the name change. Now I'm in shock. I know that they don't want to be called racists but what else can you call a close minded bigot who talks down to black people? From the treatment of Mr Anderson and Mr. Griffin it is clear that we have a large and deep racial problem in our district. Changing the name would be a small step in the right direction. It would show that our district and it's board care about all the members of our community and all the children who will attend our schools.

Please ignore the loud and angry voices. I'm asking you to stand up against this racism, bigotry and white fragility and change the name. The Marin Community Foundation has committed to covering the cost, now it is up the board will find the will. The name change has been proposed 3 times in the past and it won't go away. The theologian Theodore Parker wrote; "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice." This rang true to Martin Luther King who paraphrased it in his speeches. Please do the right and moral act of changing the name of our school district.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA

Dixie district homeowner, tax payer, CanDo supporter and parent of two Dixie alumni.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Honesty and Transparency: Board of Trustees of the Dixie School District

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 10:45 PM

Dear Dr Yamashiro

Please see attached for a letter to the Board of Trustees for their consideration regarding the Dixie School District name change issue.

Sincerely


San Rafael, CA 94903



Dixie Letter 20190203 RW.pdf
293K

February 3, 2019


San Rafael CA 94903

To our **trustees!**

Firstly, thank you all for your service. I honestly appreciate it.

My wife, Lauren, and I moved to Dixie School District in August, 2017. We came for the beautiful open spaces, wonderful architecture and well-regarded school district. More than anything though, we wanted community and the sense of inclusiveness that comes from living in a small district, walking to school, knocking on front doors to see if friends are home and seeing far too much of everyone, even those that you don't align with 100%.

For the first 9 months we were here, we settled in. We had play dates and met people. Otto joined the swim team and we walked to the stables because Jeannie loved feeding carrots to the horses. Lauren volunteered at school. I drank a few beers. We started to build friendships. All of that is still happening.

This is a wonderful neighborhood.

I am not a political person. I typically don't have strong enough opinions. I always try to see others' perspectives and believe that the world is grey and there is seldom any issue that is as clear cut as black and white. I shut down my Facebook years ago because I didn't like how often it became political.

Last summer I found myself looking at something called Nextdoor all the time. Much to my surprise, I got involved in this Dixie name thing. The last thing I expected.

I honestly don't care what the district's name is.

As a matter of fact, I googled Dixie when we arrived and none of it made much sense. Dixie meant a bunch of different things and it appeared that nobody really knew how the district was named. I haven't seen any evidence produced (and I have seen all the claims) that could lead a reasonable person to believe that they could know what James Miller's intent was.

I am a dad. I am Australian. My kids are American. I pay tax. **I believe in good manners, never judging a book by its' cover, socialized medicine, climate change, the benefits of diversity, fiscal responsibility and a supportive welfare state.**

In my professional life I also sit on a number of boards and am **passionate about good governance, honesty and transparency.** These are the key building blocks of any relationship or community and protect us all. I have seen far too many appointed or elected officials, who almost always start their service as selfless representatives, forget about their constituents and become self-serving. This riles me.

In order to fully understand the issue, I read and read, spoke to people on both sides, felt sorry for Bruce Anderson (firstly because this was obviously deeply personal to him after 20+ years, but then because it had become apparent that he was willing to use any tactics to try and finally win) and was shocked by the rhetoric being used to describe what I knew was a peaceful, tolerant, welcoming community.

I kept asking myself was **WHY?** The first "why" was

#1 Why should I get involved?

This was the easiest of all. It was obvious from the start that **my kids were being negatively impacted** because the **trustees** (key word **trust**) elected to be the stewards of education were being distracted by

February 3, 2019

14141 Whitney Dr
San Rafael CA 94903

this issue and it was clear that the majority of the board had not been a part of any discussions regarding a name change. This is somewhat selfish of me. I hope you understand.

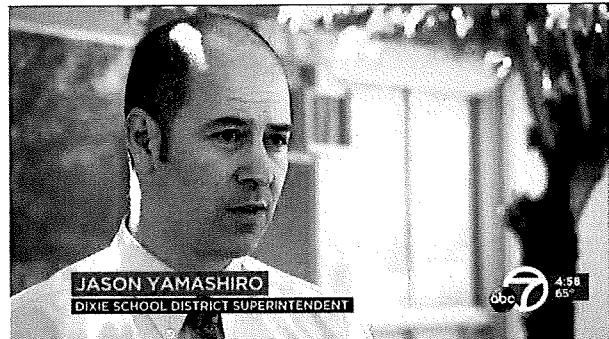
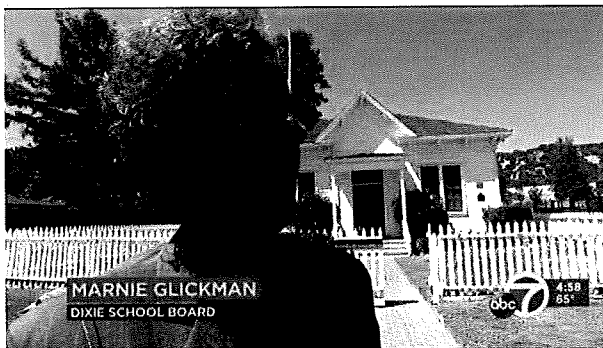
#2 Why had this issue escalated in a small, peaceful community that should be able to have civil discussions?

It struck me that people were reacting to a sense of injustice. I decided to think about how I would have approached the issue if I thought the name needed changing. I outlined a rudimentary sequenced plan:

1. Understand the process required to change the name and determine who would have the authority to make the decision
2. Prepare the evidence that would be required to justify changing the name and determine if it was defensible
3. Prepare an estimate of the financial costs of the proposal and determine if the district was adequately funded to finance it
4. Develop a plan to reach out to all the stakeholders in the community
5. Consider how the community might respond and prepare objection handling
6. Ensure that all stakeholders had access to all information and could take time to understand the proposal
7. Set up a community forum in order to garner feedback
8. Determine if the proposal should be made to the authority

If all these steps had been taken from the outset, I believe we would be in a very different position right now.

Unfortunately, the community and most members of the board of **trustees** found out about the name change proposal when Ms. Glickman Curtis and the Superintendent, Dr Yamashiro appeared on ABC news on August 31st, 2018. They claimed that the Dixie name is synonymous with the confederacy and represented themselves as Dixie School District officials.



The plan was immediately thrown out the window.

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San Rafael CA 94903

#3 Why did the name change advocates choose *not* to follow an open and transparent process?

This is where it gets interesting. I knew I had to delve into **motive**. That required more questions:

Why did this issue get raised on the news before the Board had discussed it with the community?

Why do the name change activists not want the community to vote?

Why would those preaching equity and inclusion not want to engage with the community?

Why are people taking up so much of the board's time? Seemingly by design?

What else could the board be doing with this time?

Why are activists from Tiburon and Mill Valley so involved?

Why lead the debate with divisive rhetoric like "confederate outpost in Marin" and suggest the KKK may fund an election campaign?

Why try and contact multiple news agencies and make this a national story?

Why would a board member engage with attorneys and threaten the board and the school district with litigation because she was the dissenting vote on this issue?

Who truly stands to gain from this and what are they seeking?

Whatever it is, how could anyone consider the incredible cost to the community worth it?

What good could WE ALL have done and look forward to doing if we were not dealing with this?

I am not going to provide answers as I expect you have already asked and answered many of these questions yourselves. This could have been raised and discussed in a civil fashion. I believe that obvious path was not taken for two reasons. Firstly, because the name change advocates were concerned that they did not have a strong enough proposal. Secondly, because changing the name does not appear to be the sole agenda. **Our children are the ones who are paying most dearly for this folly.**

#4 What can we do now?

Sadly, I believe that the well has been poisoned, and civil discourse is now difficult. The community is justifiably terrified of being called "Racist!" at meetings and a woman was recently threatened in her own home when a member of the CTN leadership turned up on her doorstep. The press are on CTN speed dial and nobody wants to participate in any forum where they will be videoed or recorded and potentially appear in a documentary.

I believe you only have two options.

1. Give your constituents the time and information in order to understand the breadth of the issue. Allow them the privacy to make an informed decision at an advisory election in 2020, thus upholding the recommendation of the previous board.
2. Petition the appropriate body to increase the number of signatures required on any petition to change the district's name to a far more reasonable threshold. I would suggest a reasonable percentage of the registered voter base like 2-5%

The latter is the only way to truly ensure that you are not dealing with this matter ad nauseum.

February 3, 2019

[REDACTED]
San Rafael CA 94903

Brad and Alyssa – Thank you both for your stewardship through this difficult time. I look forward to the day you are released from this burden and can help guide our district again.

Brooks and Megan – I am so sorry you have been greeted by a maelstrom. Judging by your candidate statements, you have so much to offer and can make a real difference for our community's children.

I **trust** in you and hope that honesty, transparency, good governance and the community's voice will win the day.

In the meantime, I am going to spend some time with my kids.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Rafael 94903

p.s. I will leave you with a few snippets from the Professional Governance Standards published by the California School Boards Association, which I am sure you all read late at night after board meetings to finally get to sleep.

=====

*School board members are locally elected public officials **entrusted** with governing a community's public schools. The role of the school board is to ensure that school districts are responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of their **communities**.*

The primary responsibilities of the board are to set a direction for the district, provide a structure by establishing policies, ensure accountability and **provide community leadership** on behalf of the district and public education. To fulfill these responsibilities, there are a number of specific jobs that effective boards must carry out.

The very first responsibility is:

"Involve the community, parents, students and staff in developing a common vision for the district focused on learning and achievement and responsive to the needs of all students."

To be effective an individual **trustee** is required to:

- Keep learning and achievement for all students as the **primary focus**.
- Recognize and respect **differences of perspective** and style on the board and among staff, students, parents and the community.
- Understand that authority rests with **the board as a whole** and not with individuals.

The board must have a unity of purpose and:

- Keep the district **focused** on learning and achievement for all students.
- Communicate a **common vision**.
- **Operate openly, with trust and integrity**.
- Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect.
- Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform board deliberations.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

email in support of name change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 10:50 PM

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

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for your work on behalf of our community. Today I am writing in support of changing the name of the Dixie School District to something less divisive. I would prefer, for example, Miller Elementary School District, or Big Rock Elementary School District.

I am strongly against a non-binding advisory vote for a name change brought forward by the previous board.

Some will argue that this stance is "undemocratic". However, to quote Ken Rogoff (Professor of Public Policy and Economics at Harvard University):

"The idea that somehow any decision reached anytime by majority rule is necessarily "democratic" is a perversion of the term. Modern democracies have evolved systems of checks and balances to protect the interests of minorities and to avoid making uninformed decisions with catastrophic consequences."

I would also argue that no one can unring this particular bell. I believe at this point a name change is inevitable, the only uncertainty being when. In my opinion, an advisory vote will only increase the rancor and acrimony, without changing the inexorable outcome.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
[Redacted Name]
San Rafael, CA



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please Change the Name

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 10:24 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Hello,

Please invest in our children and be the leadership our district needs and change the name. Please choose a name that doesn't involve humans or human history.

Our community is not going to be able to agree on this issue. We have already wasted countless hours of school board time and energy talking about the name of the district. This debate is creating anger and hate in our community. Leaving the name as it is may quiet this issue for some time but it will not be the end. The community will not move forward.

The school board should be able to spend their time making a better environment for the children. Our children can only think as big as we model for them. If we allow this debate to continue in any fashion we are putting limits on our school board and our children.

Thank you,

Marinwood Resident and
Dixie Elementary Mom



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

diixie

1 message

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 10:15 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

hello,

I do not have strong feelings about what to change to, but I do feel strongly that a change is needed, and almost any of the proposed names is fine for me. thanks,

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Advisory Vote: "I would support the (prior boards) decision" - THANK YOU!

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 10:13 PM

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

"If the current Board approves the revised resolution before the new Board is appointed, I would support its decision in order to remain consistent with past board decisions." –

Megan Roberts Hutchinson

Megan Roberts Hutchinson Candidate Statement

I decided to run for the Dixie School Board not because of the Dixie name change issue (and long before it became an issue this fall), but because I care about a variety of educational issues and believe our community deserves to have a qualified candidate who can serve our schools and kids well for four years on all education topics.

I do not believe the name change should be the bellwether issue for voters in this election because our school district will be faced with a variety of issues over the next four years, and we will need the most qualified candidates to address those issues. I have so far declined to take a public position on the issue during this election, instead wishing that voters would consider each candidate's qualifications on a range of educational issues.

However, I do understand and respect that many in the community have strong feelings about the name change issue, and so I have responded to every personal inquiry with sincerity and what I hope is understanding and respect for their ideas. In the interest of transparency and at the request of many on both sides, I am summarizing some of my thoughts about the name change issue here.

THE ELECTION AND THE BOARD

If elected, I would work together with the rest of the Board and with community input to ensure that the Board stays focused on educating our students, supporting our teachers, and maintaining an inclusive community. Political issues should not drive board decision-making. I welcome community input on this political issue.

When it comes to our schools, most people let the Board do its thing without any oversight (almost no community members go to board meetings) unless something political ignites a passion. But, I care about the "boring stuff" like test data, school safety, curriculum, classroom differentiation, inclusion, and fiscal responsibility, and as a former Dixie district student, teacher, and Site Council member and as a current district parent, I have a decades-long, proven record on working to improve our schools on these types of issues. If elected, I would be willing and informed enough to know when to question the superintendent and when to work to support him, which is a critical role of a school board member.

This election should be about who can best serve our schools and students. If elected, I would focus on serving our community's children, doing my best to make judicious and sound choices for all on the range of issues affecting our schools.

MY THOUGHTS ON HOW THE ISSUE WAS RAISED

I am disappointed at the way the name change issue was raised (in the media, rather than first at a board meeting or within our community). I believe our community is capable of thoughtful conversation about and consideration of the ideas and feelings of others and should have been given the opportunity to explore this idea without media scrutiny and name-calling.

MY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ISSUE ITSELF

I believe that any issue of concern to our community deserves our respectful consideration. I have life-long friends, former Dixie District colleagues, and new neighbors and friends on both sides of this issue and everywhere in between. It is my hope that this issue will not create permanent divisions or ongoing vitriol.

I don't come to this issue with a strong personal opinion, but I do care about the people in our community and their views on this issue.

I acknowledge that some people feel genuine harm or offense based on the name and agree that it is important for the Board to address this. The meaning and effect of names and symbols is a social issue facing our nation and now our community, and so I welcome community input and the consideration of cost-free compromises.

However, I also acknowledge and am proud that we have an inclusive, caring community that supports our schools and all students, no matter their race, national origin, gender, abilities, first language, etc. We must continue to work hard to ensure that this remains so. This is true no matter what name is on a school.

I believe the name change is a political and social issue affecting adults more than children, only peripherally affecting education, and currently dividing our community. I do not believe changing the name of a school or of a district will improve educational or life outcomes for students, but I believe ensuring equal educational opportunities for all is paramount. To this end, if elected I would encourage the Board to analyze student data on a variety of topics (test scores, discipline, graduation rates, etc.) and would continue to solicit community input via surveys to ensure our district is meeting its goal of supporting every student, no matter his or her background.

My goal, if elected, would be to keep focused on what is best for our students with the recognition that this is an issue of great importance to community members on both sides. I welcome community input on this issue, via a resolution placing the issue on the ballot or otherwise.

THE BOARD'S RESOLUTION AND COMMUNITY FUNDS

I support a board resolution seeking community input on the name change. In order for it to be effective, it must be well-written, clear, avoid unnecessary fighting down the road and cost the public nothing.

I do not think our limited public funds should be spent to pay for an advisory vote on a name change or for a name change itself. If a resolution passes, the resulting ballot measure should be done for the lowest cost possible (even if this means waiting for a general election) and it should be privately funded. I would be open to a name change proposal if it has the support of our community and can be privately funded.

Some have asked about my views on the specific resolution proposed at the October 9 board meeting. I see it as a start toward addressing the issue, but the resolution is being revised and so the current version is not available for review at this time by me or any other member of the public. If the current Board approves the revised resolution before the new Board is appointed, I would support its decision in order to remain consistent with past board decisions. If the current Board does not vote on the resolution before the new Board is elected, I am interested in participating in the resolution's revision to ensure it ends up being a document that accomplishes the Board's goals and serves our community.

Questions about Megan's position on this or other issues can be directed to voteformeganhutchinson@gmail.com.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Fwd: Dixie name change

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 10:04 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

[REDACTED]
Date: February 3, 2019 at 9:48:48 PM PST
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org
Subject: Dixie name change

My name is

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Channing Way #111
San Rafael 94903

Email: [REDACTED]

I am writing this letter to voice my opinion on the move to change the Dixie name.

The board has voted to put this issue to a vote by the citizens of the district but this has been sabotaged by the actions of one rogue member.

As a voting citizen and staunch supporter of the Dixie School District, I strongly resent this heavy handed attempt to hijack our right to vote on this issue.

The Dixie School District is one of the premier school districts in the Bay Area. I have many friends who moved here because of the Dixie schools.

We have now become victims of the political correctness idiocy. This has simply got to stop. We have name and word police in the form of Ms Glickman and her ilk, while in the minority, attempting to take our votes away. This is totally unacceptable. She has brought in people who do not live or vote in this District to interfere and push their bogus opinions on our school board.

Please do not let this one member take our rights from us. Let the community make this decision at the ballot box.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 10:01 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School Board,

I am writing in support of Keeping the name of our School District.

I feel that our community should be able to weigh in on the decision and it should go to a vote. I don't feel we have a discriminatory district due to a name! I love my community and feel that the due to the desire to change the name and blaming the community, we have become a community divided over an issue that never existed. It's heart breaking. I've lived here for 13 years, am a big supporter of our community and help raise awareness of how great our community is to other families who are looking to move here as a Realtor.

Please let this go to a community vote.

Thank you for your time.

I have not and will not verify or investigate the information supplied by 3rd parties.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the Name

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:56 PM

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

Dear School Board,

My daughter attended Mary Silveira elementary school for first grade before we moved to Berkeley. She is now in 4th grade and her father still lives in Marin. A few months ago, she overheard my friend and me talking about Dixie and the surprising resistance to changing the name to something less offensive. She asked a few pointed questions about where the name Dixie originated and why people like my friend (who is African American) are so hurt by the name. I explained to her some of the history of the civil war, the confederacy and then we looked up 'Dixie' on google to see what it said. This was the very first entry, on Wikipedia "Dixie (otherwise known as Dixieland) is a nickname for the Southern United States, especially those states that composed the Confederate States of America."

I also explained to her that some people believe the name was actually not related to this at all, but that the person who founded the Dixie school district was pro-confederacy as were most of people in Marin at the time (Marin voted for the Democratic, pro-slavery, candidates both times against Lincoln) . So, even if the name actually did come from somewhere else (like a Miwok woman who lived far away as some claim), it is unlikely the founder of the school was ignorant of it's confederate connotations.

My 9 year old was able to very clearly articulate her thoughts: "Why would anyone want to keep a racist name for something like a school, which is supposed to be for everyone"? Indeed.

Marin, thankfully, now votes progressively and generally supports progressive ideas. I lived in San Rafael for 10 years and love my friends and community there. However, one of the reasons I moved to Berkeley was for the increased diversity and the engagement of the community in the fight for social justice. My friends in Marin all cared about people, posted anti-racism memes on Facebook and are very nice and open minded. Very few of them actively engaged in social justice activities and very few had friends who were not white - mostly because the Dixie school district is almost entirely white.

Changing the name now is one of the best ways to teach the predominantly white community of children who attend Dixie schools about racism, its effects and how to make positive change in the world. Teaching our kids to 'treat everyone the same' is a hollow message when almost everyone around looks just like them. This is a phenomenal opportunity to address the history of racism in this country, look at the many ways every day heroes have fought against racism, what people can do actively to promote equity (as changing ingrained systemic racism takes more than thoughts and words), and how kids can be a part of making our country more just for everyone. There are books to read, history projects to do, essays to write, art to make....this is an incredible teaching opportunity! Children in Dixie will feel so proud to be part of the solution, proud of their community and what they are doing to make our world a better place.

Please authorize a name change. And, please don't name it after James Miller, the pro-confederate founder of the school! There are so many beautiful suggestions that focus on the

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Change the Name

natural beauty of the area and that is something everyone can be proud of.

Thank you for your attention.

[illegible]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

Dixie School Board
commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

February 3, 2019

Dear Dixie School Board,

I have been a resident of the Dixie School District for 21 years. I am extremely disappointed with the considerable amount of time, money and energy has been wasted on the cause to change the name of the Dixie School District. I believe the name should remain and never once did I think it had negative connotations. I am glad my kids were able to attend school in this excellent district. The name change will not help students and is a waste of time. I wish those opposed to the Dixie name would put their energy into things that help our students. I vote to keep the Dixie name.

Regards,

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

[REDACTED]

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

Dixie District Name Change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:25 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

The Dixie School District: A House Divided?

Did you know there's a mini-civil war going on in Marin? Fortunately, there have been no physical casualties, but things are getting testy. Angry social media posts. Rancor between formerly peacefully coexisting neighbors. Even threatening phone messages and on-your-doorstep harassment. Keep in mind, this is a small community in Marin County, not Fort Sumter.

Some people in (and out) of the community feel offended by the name that to them conjures up the horrors of the Civil War era: slavery, antebellum South, Jim Crow and segregation. To most who live within the district's boundaries, pay property taxes and send their children to the district's four schools, the name represents something altogether different: exemplary education, dedicated teachers and staff, and Can Do! the annual community supported fundraising campaign.

Dixie's student population is 65% white, 15% Hispanic, 9% Asian, 7% mixed and 2% African-American. The City of San Rafael, which includes parts of the district, is by far the most diverse in the county. Yet with so few obvious examples of blatant racial animus in our fair county, and nary a Civil War general's stature to be toppled, last August a handful of the offended turned their eyes to what appeared to them a most obvious target to be brought down - the Dixie School District's "offensive" name.

The group led by Marnie Glickman, a school board trustee, and Noah Griffin, a political advocate and public relations professional from Tiburon, announced their intentions via the national media. The district was tarred as being "an outpost of the Confederacy", a dubious battle cry that succeeded in raising the emotional temperature of the community. Building neighborhood consensus was never part of their plan.

After five months of chaotic Board meetings that often ran long into the night, the Dixie School Board of Trustees voted 4-1 (Glickman dissenting) to hold a non-binding advisory election for the district's 14,000 registered voters on the name change.

The Change the Name proponents, eschewing a district-wide vote, instead opted for an obscure clause in California's educational code that allows a school district's name to be changed by a petition with a *mere 15 signatures*. Fifteen people is about 0.1% of the district's registered voters. How is this fair? It's not for just about anyone who cares about democracy.

While Dixie name supporters will support any outcome of a district vote, the name changers are demanding the board accept one of their 13 alternative names at their next meeting February 12, coincidentally Lincoln's birthday. They can't agree which of their 13 names to get behind, so they've magnanimously offered them all up for consideration. What the name change advocates should do to resolve this sorry and unnecessary mess is to back *one name* to present to the board. And the board should put it up against "Dixie". Let those who live here vote.

This manufactured issue has caused more pain and reputational damage to the community than the Dixie name has ever done. Whichever name prevails, it's critical that we move beyond this nasty chapter into a positive one. Yes, the children's education should matter. Sadly, not a single student will receive any tangible benefit from a name change. However, they will learn that if you stir up enough emotion, and get on TV, fairness and democracy can be steamrolled.

If there's any teachable moment in this conflict, let's heed Lincoln's words, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Change the name? Not like this.

By [REDACTED] parents with 30 student-years (three daughters x 10 years each in Vallecito and Miller Creek) in the Dixie District

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Devon Dr.
San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

A parent for a name change

1 message

[REDACTED] >
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:21 PM

Hello Board,

I am writing to express my support for the name change. Many streets and other landmarks across the country have changed names in the last 5-10 years as a way to move forward and honor inclusion, and I hope the Dixie School District can be just as progressive.

Thank you for your consideration,
[REDACTED]

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

Change the name!

1 message

[REDACTED] Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:21 PM
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear Members of the School Board,

Symbols matter. They have a real effect on our lives. Dixie, as the anthem of the Confederacy, is an ugly symbol. It reminds us daily of inequality, racism and violence in our history. It also reminds us daily that there are people in this community who do not care that such a symbol looms large over the very institution in which we should be educating our children about what is right, and about the importance of fighting racism and violence in our society.

My daughter is a kindergartener at Vallecito, and I am deeply committed to seeing a name change go through for my daughter's generation and for all future generations. Children in the district have been asking questions about the fight over this name. They have learned about what the name Dixie represents, and they are smart enough to know it is wrong. Our children should be able to go to school every day with pride, knowing that their school board cared enough to remove this awful symbol from their district. We owe this much to our children.

I am a parent and resident in the district, and I am also a woman of color and a professor of Sociology. As a woman of color, it is deeply painful for me to know that there are still those in my community who would rather hold on to this racist, hurtful name than do what is right. As a sociologist, I know that symbols mean different things to different people, and that their impacts differ based on our life experiences. However, it is also clear that changing the name will not harm anyone, while keeping this name will continue to hurt and offend people all over this community for generations to come.

Numerous residents, parents, our state representatives, our mayor, and various important organizations in our community support the removal of the name Dixie. The Marin Community Foundation is going to pay for it. There is no excuse left now. Preserving the name at this point would let our community know that this board is on board with racism, and that would be an embarrassment.

I urge you to please vote to change the name of the Dixie School District to one of the names listed below. Please note that "Mary Dixie" is NOT an acceptable choice.

- Live Oak Elementary School District
- Big Rock Elementary School District
- Live Oak Valley Elementary School District
- Oak Valley Elementary School District

Thank you for your time,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Board Decision

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:20 PM

[REDACTED]
Dear Board of Trustees of the Dixie School District,

I'm the parent of two students who attended Dixie Elementary and Miller Creek Middle School. Additionally, I'm an active volunteer in our upper Lucas Valley community including my service as a board member of the Marin School of Environmental Leadership at Terra Linda HS. Thirty years of my career have been spent working in education, with the last twelve years as the executive director of Edutopia at the George Lucas Educational Foundation and as a board member working with organizations to improve schools.

When I first heard concerns about the name Dixie, my reaction was that there are more urgent issues to focus our time and energy on to improve learning and teaching in the Dixie district. However, as I listened to the people advocating for a change, especially the few African American members of our community, I changed my opinion. The name Dixie, established during the Civil War, offends some of our local residents -- especially neighbors with darker skin. Over the past few months, I have been appalled by the mean-spirited comments and mockery coming from several local residents, mostly white people. They may not see a name change as a priority, similar to my initial reaction, however these negative responses have convinced me even more that the name must change. Just today I saw an email calling for residents to write all of you to keep the name Dixie because the "stakes were high" for "home values".

I urge the board to exercise its duty, as bestowed upon you by the electorate, and take action to change the name. This divisive issue has been brewing in the community for twenty years and it will only continue to resurface if not addressed. An impressive number of elected leaders have stepped up to stand by you and the Marin Community Foundation will graciously cover the costs of a name change. Help us move forward in 2019, make the name change, and focus on strategies to ensure an inclusive, equitable, safe environment for all students. Of the names proposed, "Miller Creek Elementary School District" seems to be the most logical transition since Miller Creek MS is attended by all middle schoolers and the elementary schools can choose alternative names such as Joseph Eichler Elementary.

Thank you for your leadership and your time in service of all students in our local public school district.

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please allow a public vote

1 message

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

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:17 PM

Dear Mr. Yamashiro and Board members-

I write with fervent support of a community vote for a Dixie name change. When our elected officials are not able to balance the volume of a few incendiary voices with character of content (or lack thereof), you should count on the community to make their intentions clear. I expect you to bring the "Dixie Name Change" matter to a public vote, and to return to the important work of educating my children.

With respectful disappointment,

[REDACTED]
Citizen of Dixie District for 6.5 years

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903

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

Letter to the school board regarding the Dixie name change

1 message

commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:13 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 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 Miler'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] Dixie School District resident since 1996

[REDACTED] Dixie School District resident since 1970

[REDACTED] 20100 Berry Road, San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please support name change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:02 PM

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

Dear members of the board-

Thank you for your time and effort in addressing this sensitive topic. Your willingness to listen to the residents of this district and take us seriously shows great leadership on your part.

I would like to say that I am for the name change regardless of the cost.

As we grow as a society and are showing greater sensitivity towards the marginalization of others we are able to send a message to the Bay Area, Marin, and our community that we are growing, we are aware and we want our school district to reflect that.

While the name change will not change the demographics of our community, nor will it change the affordability of our neighborhood it will show we are aware we do not live in a vacuum.

We are aware that our society as a whole is becoming more conscious of our past, and the recognition we want to bring to it.

By changing the name we are taking a stand towards inclusion, tolerance and acceptance. We show recognition to the pain our current school district name brings to members of our community and beyond.

I am certain there are many comments making points similar to mine, so I will just end by saying thank you for your leadership, your time, and for making the right decision.

A TK dad



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Request to Change the name of the Dixie School District.

1 message

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Survey - margaret@mobilitywed.com
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:47 PM

I am writing to convey my unequivocal support of changing the Dixie School District name. I feel the historical interpretation/argument in favor of keeping the name is irrelevant to this community debate. First because it cannot be 100% determined where, why or how the name came about - the arguments are all speculation at this point. More and most importantly, we should be considering whether any members of our community and their children, particularly the underrepresented, are hurt and offended by the current name. Undoubtedly, this is the case. Hence the repeated request to change the name over the years.

While some in our community ("the defenders") would like to suggest that they are defending the current district name without any racist intent, I believe their reactivity and defensiveness is impeding their ability to see the racism in themselves and the community. I don't even believe the defenders are mean people who are even consciously aware of their racial bias. It feels a bit hypocritical that they want to perpetuate the belief that Dixie represents a school system with an excellent reputation and unfortunately, now to the rest of the world, our small, "white" community appears to instead be perpetuating an exclusive "us versus them" prejudice. I want to be able to proudly raise my children in a community where everyone feels welcome and the Dixie name no longer allows for that. I urge you to vote to change the name.

The name I would choose from the list of suggested names is Miller Creek Elementary School District. Miller Creek runs by the community center and middle school. The name is positively associated with our community and is already familiar to most people.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Director of Education

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Support for Petition to Change the Name

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:40 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear School Board:

I just wanted to voice my support for changing the school district name. I grew up in San Rafael (& graduated from both Marin Academy and Dominican University) and the name has always sounded misplaced to me. My husband and I have lived here in the district for over a decade and we are raising our son here. Now that I've learned about the origins of the name and listened to the valid concerns of our fellow African American residents, I feel the school district name must be changed. It's time.

I was curious, however, about the story put forth about Mary Dixie and so I visited the 'We Are Dixie' website to view their research. I had some questions (mostly because I am familiar with academic and genealogy research standards) so I asked them via Facebook messenger. I was quite shocked at how they treated me, a fellow resident of this district. They said I was being condescending for asking legitimate questions and blocked me! (I posted screen shots of this interaction on Nextdoor if you would like to view it.) They preach inclusivity but obviously do not practice it. I think they understand the racist meaning of the word Dixie but don't care. We are better than that. It's time to change the name.

I like Terra Linda Elementary School District for a new name.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie name change

1 message

[REDACTED]

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:39 PM

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

I advise you to keep the name of our school district as "Dixie School District". This has been the name associated with quality schools for 150 years, just as long as the Dixie appellation has been applied to states south of the Mason-Dixon line(hence the nickname "Dixie"). I have lived in the district since I moved to Marin 30 years ago and never associated the name with any racial overtones. Please keep the name and don't feel pressured by outside agitators who do not live in San Rafael. The vast majority of people I have discussed this with feel the same way but most have not spent the time attending school district meetings. They are the "silent majority."

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] San Rafael

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie school name change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:34 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I am writing because I feel strongly about changing the name of our local schools from Dixie. My family moved to Marinwood in 2009 from Oak Park, IL, the first suburb west of Chicago. We lived in Oak Park in part because it was diverse, my daughter's kindergarten class was 50% kids that were either African American or Bi-racial, predominantly African American and Caucasian. We were concerned about choosing a predominantly white place to live but were assured by others that the area was very "liberal" and not to be concerned about the lack of diversity. This is one of the first times we have seen the down side of living in a mostly white community. The idea that others can decide what is offensive to others and what constitutes as racist is beyond me. I wholeheartedly agree with the name change. I would like to live in a community that supports inclusivity, so much so that it doesn't question the members of the community when they say they have been offended, but simply responds in kindness and make amends and accommodations whenever possible.

Please change the Dixie name to something that better reflects our community and it's intention, being inclusive and welcoming for all!!

Thanks

San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Community vote

2 messages

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

Sat, Feb 2, 2019 at 2:56 PM

Hello Dixie School District Board Members,
We thank you for your time and service to our children.
Too bad the focus has deterred from their well being and turned to this time consuming issue.
The only right and fair way to end this is to uphold the last boards decision and put this out for a community vote. It is unfair to put you in the hot seat to decide. Especially since the board is already biased with at least 2 board members currently in favor of the name change.
I was at baseball drills last weekend and several kids were talking about where they go to school. I found it quite interesting listening to 2 of them say proudly "I go to Dixie!" These kids are innocent in this whole matter. The name isn't racist to them. A few zealots, some of whom don't even live in this district, have made the word racist.
Please let the community decide.
It's time for you to be true board members and start focusing on the issues that affect our children. Isn't that why you ran? Isn't that why we voted for you? We know this must be so frustrating for you.
I'm imploring you to give the citizens of this community the opportunity to decide in an election.

Have a great day! 😊

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:21 PM

Also-I live at [REDACTED] Rafael California 94903 and have lived here for 4 years. We moved to Dixie schools district so that my son could attend one of the best schools, Dixie elementary. Our previous residence of 12 years was in the laurel dell district.
He is now in 2nd grade.

Have a great day! 😊

[REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Proposed Name Change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:12 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

February 2, 2019

TO:

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

FROM: [REDACTED] Rafael, CA 94903

RE: Dixie School name change

With the regularity of the falling red maple leaves in autumn, political activists from without the district and even from within the Board have once more resurrected the notion of changing the name of the Dixie School to who knows what. My wife and I have lived in the Marinwood and Lucas Valley community for over forty years. Dixie school has been an integral part of our life here and consequently we feel compelled to join the discussion. This correspondence will memorialize our opposition to any name change. We oppose any change for the following reasons:

1. No one knows for certain how or why Dixie School received its name. The name 'Dixie' no longer carries a historical connotation to the Confederate South.

Pulitzer Prize winning author, Doris Kearns Goodwin, writing about Abraham Lincoln's reaction after learning of General Lee's surrender (Team of Rivals):

When the assembly quieted down, Lincoln acknowledged their euphoria with a smile of his own. "I am very greatly rejoiced to find that an occasion has occurred so pleasurable that the people cannot restrain themselves." These words drew even wilder cheers. Lincoln then announced a special request for the band. "I have always thought 'Dixie' one of the best tunes I have ever heard," he began. "Our adversaries over the way attempted to appropriate it, but I insisted yesterday that we fairly captured it." This was followed by tumultuous applause. "I presented the question to the Attorney General, and he gave it as his legal opinion that it is our lawful prize. I now request the band to favor me with its performance." In requesting the patriotic song of the South, Lincoln believed that "it is good to show the rebels that with us they will be free to hear it again." The band followed "Dixie" with "Yankee Doodle" and "the crowd went off in high good humor"

Wise words from a wise man. May the Dixie School Board exhibit similar wisdom as it struggles to resolve the name change issue.

2. Names are important markers for our memories and our history.

Akenaten was an Egyptian pharaoh of the 18 Dynasty who is noted for trying to shift Egypt's traditional polytheism to a quasi-monotheistic worship of Aten – a sun god. The change was widely opposed. After Akenaten's death, his monuments were disassembled and hidden, his statues destroyed and even his name was excised from the king lists. Accordingly, his name would have been totally lost from history except for modern excavations in Amarna, his abandoned capital. Akenaten was an unpopular Pharaoh, whose impact on Egyptian society was almost lost because his detractors tried to wipe his memory from history. Had they been successful, we would know nothing about his queen, Nefertiti, or his son Tutankhamun.

You cannot, should not, try to erase 150 years of the history of this valley at the behest of non-resident political operatives or even the sincere but shortsighted wishes of a minority of residents. 3. Name changing without a consensus of the people is akin to a political purge.

You may not remember the Chinese Cultural Revolution of 1966 -1976, but I do.

"In August 1966, Mao Zedong called for the start of a Cultural Revolution at the Plenum of the Communist Central Committee. He urged the creation of corps of "Red Guards" to punish party officials and any other persons who showed

bourgeois tendencies.

"Mao's call was answered by the students, some as young as elementary school, who organized themselves into the first groups of Red Guards. They were joined later by workers and soldiers."

"The first targets of the Red Guards included Buddhist temples, churches, and mosques, which were razed to the ground or converted to other uses. Sacred texts, as well as Confucian writings, were burned, along with religious statues and other artwork. Any object associated with China's pre-revolutionary past was liable to be destroyed."

In their fervor, the Red Guards began to persecute people deemed "counter-revolutionary" or "bourgeois," as well. The Guards conducted so-called "struggle sessions," in which they heaped abuse and public humiliation upon people accused of capitalist thoughts (usually these were teachers, monks, and other 1 educated persons)". Sound a little familiar?

While changing the name of a small elementary school may not equate to the cultural upheaval of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the fervor of the 'name-changers' and their tactics of name calling and attempts at public shaming IS reminiscent of its Red Guard. It should not be allowed to be successful.

Ray Bradbury may have had the best take on changing historic names.

"He glanced up from the garden to the Martian mountains. He thought of the proud old Martian names that had once been on those peaks. Earthmen dropping from the sky, had gazed upon hills, rivers, Martian seas left nameless in spite of names. Once Martians had built cities, named cities; climbed mountains, named mountains; sailed seas, named seas. Mountains melted, seas drained, cities tumbled. In spite of this, the Earthmen had felt a silent guilt at putting new names to these ancient hills and valleys".

Please do not attribute more to the name than it deserves. Do not erase our history and the memories attached to it. Teach it. Do not become distracted from your charge to educate our children and allow expedient politics to lead us down a path of regret and guilt. The name belongs to the community, it is not yours to take away. If the community at large agrees to a name change then so be it.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

1. What was China's Cultural Revolution? – ThoughtCo. <https://www.thoughtco.com>
2. Dark They Were, and Golden-eyed (Naming of Names). Ray Bradbury, "A Medicine for Melancholy" (1959) and "S is for Space" (1966)



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

DIXIE

1 message

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@comcast.net

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:09 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Hi District,

The name Dixie has been good for over 100 years, do not change the name now. Dixie School District has been doing a great job for our children and should keep the focus on that.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Drive

San Rafael, Ca

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@comcast.net



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie

1 message

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

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 7:34 PM

I am writing as a 60 year resident of Dixie School District, 3 children attending until high school with not one complaint about the name that was ever made public. In the interest of maintaining calm and amity among neighbors, I urge a vote on the issue, even though I don't believe a name change is in our best interest. I am 88 years old, have written six letters before, and it is too hard to write more than this. Put it to a vote!

Amicably

[REDACTED]
Diane Carter

[REDACTED]
201 Hickory Lane



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Letter attached from We Are Dixie

1 message

We Are Dixie <wearedixie@wearedixie.org>

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 6:27 PM

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

Please read the attached letter which details the arguments from us to let this go to the community and vote . Thank you.

We Are Dixie



We Are Dixie Arguments.docx

1067K

We would like to ask the Dixie School Board to consider if they will vote for this name change as politicians or instead as voices for our community and make them part of a very big decision. They will need to choose if they want to listen to their constituents or if they want to bypass them. It is our opinion that not a single child will receive any tangible benefit from a name change. However, our children will learn that if you stir up enough emotion, facts and logic will not matter.

We Are Dixie believes the district was named after a Miwok Indian woman and the CTN group thinks it was named after the geographic southern region of the United States. There are many other stories about how the name came to be as well but none have been authenticated, including the confederacy theory.

Our School Board may be surprised when listening to our community since many people are afraid to speak out because they are scared to be labeled racist, lose business, be the next target on the Change The Name group's list to twist their words and make them seem like something they are not, or to jeopardize their government or public jobs. The CTN group has been very ugly in their endeavor and our www.WeAreDixie.org website highlights what they say on social media and do in public and shows the lengths they will go to in order to get their way including labeling our community as a confederate outpost and our community members racist. It has not been a community driven campaign. It has hurt, not helped our schools and children.

If our community votes in the 2020 election and it is deemed that the community wants to change the name then we are fine with that decision. We do feel that the board needs to first listen to the constituents that voted for them first and make this matter one for the community to work together on but if the school board decides to not listen to the community and instead give into the loud bully tactics of the CTN group then it could divide and inflame our community even more.

The name Dixie has been used for over 450 years and predates the confederacy by 300 years. There are 23 cities in the US and Africa/Australia that are currently named Dixie as well as a national park, other school districts and schools, a university, streets, transit stations, grocery stores, many companies and stores which include fortune 500 or publicly traded, and 56,000 US citizens (7400 of which are African American) have the first name Dixie and almost 300 US Citizens have the last name Dixie (almost 100% of these people are African American.) In England a Dixie is a large pot for cooking or a lookout. In France parents name their 10th born Dixie as a common practice.

The good name of James Miller who built and named the school and district are being dragged through the mud in order to make a political statement and to be the first people in the US to change the name Dixie on a public place. History does not show our school was named to demean or oppress anybody. Mr Miller also built a local orphanage, never owned slaves or lived in a county that had slaves, and to our knowledge has an impeccable reputation. He was just a hardworking Irishman who came to the us via French Canada. He took in 2 Indian youngsters and raised them as part of his household. he named the Truckee river after a Miwok Chief, and lived in the same area as the Miwok Dixie Family in the Gold Country. He even had descendants who grew up in Murphy's CA where Mary Dixie lived who today say that it is not known that James Miller "cared one bit for the Southern point of view of the confederacy."



The Dixie Family was a Native Miwok Family in Vallecito near Murphy's CA. whom had the Dixie name over 30 years before the confederacy as per the census and there is high chance that Miller Family had contact with them since he lived there for 1 year and his family founded the area where the Dixie family lived. As for the name Dixie being a colonized Miwok name, Marin and Novato are both named after baptized Indians. Why is it so implausible that Dixie was named as well after a Miwok person since the area was Miwok land?

The name Dixie does not equate to the statues of confederate generals or soldiers. Those statues celebrated people that did bad things to others they did not represent a region where something bad happened. With this logic we need to change the name of Germany, Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia, Ukraine, etc. Nobody has ever tried to erase an areas history by banning the use of the name of the area because they felt it harmed people. An area can bring up thoughts of the past but the geographic area never did anything bad to another person. The CTN group wants to erase history by banning the use of the name Dixie. Do they also now feel that the music Dixieland Jazz which was named and created by the Blacks in the south should be banned as well and now it should be called something else? Should we ban Dixie paper products? Should we not play the music from the female African American Group "The Dixie Cups" ?

Where does it stop?

If the word Dixie hurts some in our community then why would we not use the same logic to remove the name San Rafael since the Mission San Rafael colonized thousands of local Miwok Indians oppressed and enslaved by the missionaries or changing the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. or high school since he was a slave trader? How about White Hill Middle school in Fairfax? Where does it stop?

Dolly Parton removed the word "Dixie" from her dinner show which she was looking to expand to other areas only because there was backlash that her show did not portray the true Dixie Land South since it did not depict slavery or the suffering of blacks and it was instead "a lily-white kitsch extravaganza that play-acts the Civil War but never once mentions slavery." Instead of changing the show she changed the name in order to expand to new cities and take away confusion as to what the show was about. The CTN group is stating that she changed it because she did not like the word Dixie which is not what our understanding is.

In France the name Dixie is applied to the 10th born child, James miller lived in Quebec where they speak French and had 10 kids that were all born when he named the Dixie School. Is it plausible that he named the district after his 10 kids with a French name since he built the school for his children and the other kids in the area? We think it is definitely plausible.

We already have over 1250 signatures on our online and in person petitions and can easily get more rapidly. Our supporters are LOCAL and not from out of the area like the CTN group.

How does changing the name of the school district help anyone? From what we see it will only take funds away from the district and make no impact whatsoever except to make a few activists feel

good. Will it help struggling families that need the financial support from the schools to help feed and educate their children and to give them opportunities to enrich their lives? Will it stop people from calling the police if they see a black youth walking down the street with a hooded sweatshirt on? Will it stop children from saying hurtful and shameful things? Someone will always be offended by something where do we stop? We Are Dixie feels that this “feel good” endeavor is a huge waste of time and effort. Some people have sensitized themselves to be offended by everything.

We do not feel this is a human rights issue. Our community members will not have any more or less rights if the name of our district and school is changed. Our community will continue to be kind and welcoming to all colors and creeds and we feel that the lack of diversity in our county has nothing to do with our small district’s name. Other areas of Marin have similar demographics. Also, the name Dixie is used very commonplace throughout the country and world on public institutions, streets, towns, state parks, companies, jazz music, bands, people’s first and last names, grocery stores, and more. **It is a very common word and not used to demean anyone.**

Several people on the CTN side have recently moved into our community within the past 5 years knowing the district name and in fact moved here because of the school district. Now they are stating that the name is hurtful to them? They had a choice of where to live so why did they move into a school district with their children if they felt the very name of the district was hurtful? We feel there was not a problem until the outside political figures in the CTN group created one. There are many people stating that they assume the word hurts people, some that say the name is strange, that it reminds them of the slavery and human suffering in the country’s history, etc. and others that say it reminds them of a woman’s name or the name of their family pet. Our school district is more ethnically diverse than most others in Marin County and we acknowledge each school in Marin and throughout the country has issues with children being insensitive to other children which is not acceptable but these situations have nothing to do with the district name.

We feel this will have a deep financial impact on our school district. While the CTN group thinks it will cost only \$30,000 to change the name of the district and one of it’s schools we feel it will cost upwards of \$100,000-\$175,000 based on our research for costs of other districts and elementary schools that have gone through a name change. You can see our research here. This name change not only affects our district and one of the schools but ALSO our local sports teams such as the Dixie Youth Soccer League. Who is going to pay for these changes? The CTN group has stopped fundraising (with only \$1800 pledged) and has stated the district should pay for the name change.

The financial impacts will expand past the actual costs to change the name, especially if the school board decides to forgo a public vote. Many in the community feel this is a waste of valuable time and money and may decide to not financially contribute or advertise with the district if they feel the school district does not care about their thoughts and feelings or that the school district is so flush that they can spend money on unnecessary feel good acts. Results from fundraisers may become more lackluster if the community is bypassed in an important financial decision and more seniors may opt to take a tax exemption. The community may speak out in these silent ways to communicate their dissatisfaction with the School Board not caring about what their feelings are. The financial ramifications to the board choosing to not listen to it’s constituents could be quite significant.

Why do we want to keep the name Dixie? The Dixie School District has proudly been built by 4 generations of local families that have sent their children to the school and have worked hard to make the Dixie name synonymous with excellence in education and community. To many in our multicultural district Dixie is part of a legacy of excellence that has been community driven. Our large 1500 home local Eichler community was one of the first in the area to have a non discrimination policy in the 1950’s and we have always been very proud of that heritage. Taking the voice away from the generations of locals that have volunteered in our schools, worked on fundraising, donated school supplies, made sure underprivileged children were taken care of, served lunch, headed up classroom parties, gone on field trips, planted gardens, built structures pro-bono, etc. is not what our community is about. We hope that our school board sees that the name Dixie means good and positive things to many people in our

community and not a name used to demean anyone. We request that the legacy not be wiped away without listening to the generations that built it.

We find it interesting that the very politicians that recently wrote letters to support the name change were fine with the name and NEVER tried to change it or joined Noah and Kerry's campaign in the past to change it but now that they are elected officials they feel it is in THEIR best interest (not ours) to take a stand on the matter. Where were these politicians when their own kids went to school in the District district and when they were volunteering on the Dixie Youth Soccer league? Several of these politicians even sat on our school board for years or were married to our superintendent, and they said nothing and now they are jumping on the bandwagon in an attempt for more future votes.

The We Are Dixie group are all local parents who are doing what we think is best for our community. We are open to a name change if the community vs. a small group decides to change it. We are not politicians or activists like the CTN key members. We all work full time unlike most of the CTN key members. We do not have the time or wherewithal to spend countless hours drumming up support from politicians, but we all can agree that if we wanted to and had the time we would also be able to produce letters to give from politicians that feel this movement has gone too far. We did not reach out to the press because we care about our community and did not feel reaching out to the press was in the community's best interest although we do feel most of the US would be shocked and stunned at the "problem" with our district name that has been created. Many could only wish for our first world issues that we have in our community. We are just a group of local parents trying to speak out for the community that has been targeted by a flavor of the month campaign and politicians attempting to gain a new platform for their next election.

We want the board to think about the tactics the CTN group is taking to hurt our community. Let the constituents vote on the matter and then the board may make their decision. There is a due process that should happen as to not hurt our community further. We ask the current school board to not give in to political pressure of a group of people that have outside interests. This is a local matter and our community should vote on something that affects us so very much both financially and emotionally.

It is our stance that there is no concrete evidence the school district was named on a dare after the confederacy, if it was named for the Miwok woman/Family Mary Dixie, if it was named after one of Mr. Millers cows, or named a French name after the 10 children he had when he built the school for them.

LETOUR COMMUNITY DECIDE





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the name please

1 message

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

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 6:21 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an active community member and caring human being. It is obvious to me that to change a name of a school from a name that carries a history of racist connotations is JUST the RIGHT thing to do. There is no other answer to this for me. Our children are watching, and I for one want them to see that a fight for humanity can be won by and kindness, not by intolerance and disrespect.

Please change the name of Dixie Elementary School NOW. Do the right thing.
We teach what we tolerate. Do not teach our children to tolerate a world with no heart for peoples' feelings.

I vote for John Muir Elementary School.

Sincerely,


San Rafael resident

Sent from my iPhone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the name.

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 6:06 PM

Dixie School Board members,

I write this letter because my heart is heavy. I feel a rising anger toward the conflict that is growing in our community regarding the changing of the name of the Dixie School District. This conflict has been brought to our doorstep by a group of social justice warriors who in large part are NOT members of our community and who are funded ambiguously from outside of the area. Their agenda also seems to be hidden since in this particular case the Dixie School District does not share the same values as the confederacy. This conflict therefore serves no purpose in any educational or informational way, nor does it set a good example to anyone anywhere.

Schools have traditionally been one of the common links that have bound our communities together. Our schools were founded and developed to pass knowledge as well as our social values to the next generation. Most importantly, our schools were founded to teach critical thinking skills and not political indoctrination of any kind. Furthermore, the timing of change the name of Dixie coincides with the election of new board members who may be unfairly coerced into voting for this change instead of a general vote by the community.

I strongly urge for this Board to put this topic to a general community vote. The Board should NOT be coerced into making a name change decision based on the pressures of an outside social activist group.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my view point.

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



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie school district

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 4:44 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please change the name to any name that does not include the word Dixie, which is emblematic of the Confederacy - note the issues raised when the governor of Virginia was found with racist symbols: we don't want those symbols in Marin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mill Valley CA 94941



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name change

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 4:33 PM

> I would like the name changed to: MIWOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

>

> Thanks,

> [REDACTED]

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

Change the school district name

1 message

[REDACTED]

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 4:15 PM

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

I believe it is vitally important for the Dixie School District to change its name give the dark history behind this name, specifically racism and segregation. Some people are arguing that the district itself does not demonstrate or practice these qualities and that the strong local history of the name and its long-time local goodwill are reasons to keep the name.

These reasons, while all true, are short sighted. The "dixie" name has a terrible national history behind it. Regardless of any local name recognition in Marin, a name associated with bigotry, hatred, and lack of equality and inclusion has no place here. Rather than cling to a name solely for sentiment's sake, the current Dixie School District should make a statement about its beliefs and support for equality, diversity and inclusion by changing its name – NOW.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change


1 message

 >
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 4:11 PM

Dixie School Board,

Who would benefit from changing the Dixie District name? Who benefits from changing ANY name? How does a name change improve a life?

My last name is  I am proud of my German heritage. My paternal grandparents legally migrated to America post WW1, worked tremendously hard under difficult circumstances to survive, raise a family, and eventually prospered in the US. I grew up speaking English and bits of German. My extended family is Jewish.

David Curtis recently tweeted my name in association with the Nazis. Why? My name was never a problem in any way for me, for my family, for my Jewish relatives, nor for my friends. Clearly it is a problem for David Curtis.

It would not benefit the community for me to change my name.

It certainly would not help David Curtis.

Point made.



San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Petition to change the name BACK to Dixie

3 messages

We Are Dixie <werdixie@gmail.com>
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sat, Feb 2, 2019 at 2:00 PM

Dixie School Board,

As many community members have already communicated, we are incredibly disappointed that the Dixie school board is still being distracted from their roles as the stewards of our children's education.

Change The Name advocates are clearly prepared to continually disrupt the board, with complete disregard for the impact on district finances, community unity or our kids well being. Their stated intent is to cause disruption meeting after meeting, with the aim of pressuring the board into agreeing to change the name in order to put the issue to rest.

Regrettably, as a result of the coercive tactics utilized by the name change advocates, **We Are Dixie has prepared a counter petition to change the name back to Dixie if the board votes to change the name on February 12th without an advisory election.** Hundreds of Dixie School District residents (who are eligible voters from within the district boundaries) have come forward in support of this petition.

At the end of the day, we still believe you need to hear from your 14,000+ constituents through the advisory vote. Please do not ignore our voices!

-We Are Dixie

We Are Dixie <wearedixie@wearedixie.org>
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 11:46 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

We Are Dixie <wearedixie@wearedixie.org>
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 3:27 PM

[Quoted text hidden]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Are we REALLY going to consider anything other than Mary Dixie?

1 message

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mainmodern.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@mainmodern.com)>
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:55 PM

Dear Board,

Some in the community think the name Dixie is bad branding ,which in my experience of branding this community and selling it to others for almost 15 years I have to disagree.

I can definitely tell you that it would be much more embarrassing to be trying to get people to move into the "Terrawood" School District (should we put a big white sign up on the hills of Terrawood so people know that they've entered the prestigious area?)

"Miwok" I'm pretty sure the Native Americans would not like the district named after them when we are possibly changing the existing name of the school district that may have been named after after a Miwok woman .

"Skywalker"Something tells me George Lucas would definitely not want us to name the local school district after anything Star Wars since our community was so unwelcoming to him with his plans for his movie studios. And truthfully it just seems like a childhood dream versus a realistic name of the school district.

"Lucas valley" Seems like somebody needs a geography lesson on the different areas/neighborhoods that make up the 94903 school district

"Terra Linda" same geography issue as Lucas Valley.

"Miwok Hills" Where exactly is it known that the Miwoks lived in the hills and not the valley of Lucas Valley or Terralinda? I'm just curious I was in aware that there were any Miwok villages or burial grounds in the hills. Can anyone please let me know where those Miwok settlements were in the Hills?

"Vallecito" Well since that is actually the town that Mary Dixie is from then it just feels a little weird

"John Muir" ok I think we all can agree, at least right now, that he was a good guy and should have stuff named after him but is there any history with him and our school district or immediate area in particular?

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Are we REALLY going to consider anything other than Mary Dixie?

"Miller creek" if people think that James Miller was such a racist (no proof of this by the way) and named the school district after the confederacy then why on earth would anyone want to name anything after him?

"Live Oak" yikes what about the blue oak , valley oak, black oak, white oak, Oregon oak , and coast oak? That is leaving out other local oak trees. #NoOakLeftBehind 😞

"Big Rock" someone already brought up the childish rhyming issue which is a branding fail for certain when naming a school district vs. a resting spot for weary bicyclists.

If our school district decides to change the name at any point after a democratic vote then everybody in the community can contribute and not just 15 people.

Thank you

A Concerned Dixie School District resident of 15 years

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Don't Change the Name

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:49 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

My wife and I have lived in the Dixie school district for 16 years. When we were searching for homes, we specifically searched in this area because of the highly rated Dixie school district, for our future children to attend. We currently have 2 children who are enrolled in Dixie district schools.

I truly can't believe that this ridiculous debate has grown to this level. It's without a doubt dividing our close community. The fact that this is all spearheaded by 1 rouge board member and her husband, who only want to "make their mark" in the community for selfish reasons. They are just like all "social justice warriors" they vehemently fight for or against a ridiculous cause that rarely impacts anyone, just to gain notoriety for themselves and then quickly move on to the next outrageous debate. Not because they truly care about the situations, but just because they get attention for stirring the pot. The fact they now use #blacklivesmatter is appalling, this movement is for fighting to stop violence against African Americans, not a debate about woman's name.

The school board members have many important decisions that directly affect the education of our children. They should not be bothered or ever have to worry about a name. I don't believe someone can truly be offended by a woman's name. I have very close friends who named their daughter Dixie. I have known Dixie her whole life and she has grown to be a brilliant artist and successful college student. She should never have to be harassed or embarrassed because of her name. According to Marnie Glickman and her husband, this 19 year old girl and her parents are racists JUST because of the name DIXIE!

Marnie Glickman is dividing this community. There are so many more important things in this world that people should be fighting for. The fact that I'm even writing this letter is shocking.

Please don't let these Social Justice Warriors win and cause even more problems for our children and the community

Dixie Glickman
1415 Meyer Dr



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie District Name Change

1 message

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:47 PM

To the Dixie Board Members,

What a shame you have to spend your volunteer time deciding on this name change issue.

It would benefit the students more if you were free to deal with educational aspects of the District.

One reason we moved to this area was because Dixie District had such a good reputation.

Our children got educations here which led to good careers in accounting and the law.

Never did we wonder about the origin of the Dixie name. Never did our friends question the name. Never did we hear that anyone was offended by it.

Whatever you decide is fine with me. But this entire discussion has been truly pointless.



Sent from my iPhone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>


Dixie

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:43 PM

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

The two men behind the campaign to change the name of the Dixie School District live in southern Marin, and as far as I know, neither has ever lived in the Dixie District. Yet this has been a hot button issue for both of them for several years. Those who live within the Dixie District, and who pay taxes supporting the District, should be the folks deciding if a name change is needed. Outsiders like them and me, should stay out of it. I doubt they have ever refused food or drink item presented to them in a Dixie paper cup or plate. Dixie products are used nation wide, yet I don't see any proponents of the Dixie school name change tackling this flagrant violation of their beliefs. Quit wasting time, effort, and money that should be used to better the education of your children. Allow the scheduled vote on the issue to take place, then abide by the result.


Larkspur, CA 949+39



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie letter

1 message

 <[redacted]@aboglobal.net>

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:30 PM

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

Attached please find my Dixie letter.



Dixie letter.docx

25K



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Petition for name change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 3:24 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To the Dixie School Board,

I have been following the controversy regarding the petition to change the name of the district and observing the polarization. The division among people is to me the greatest harm and source of sadness. It is clear that many people feel strongly that the name Dixie is tantamount to racism and those wanting to preserve the name seem to be a minority. I believe the greatest service you can perform in your leadership role is to respond to the will of people and put a quick end to the conflict, enabling the energy to begin to be redirected toward reconciliation. I hope you feel and think similarly.

Good luck at the hearing.

Respectfully,

PS My SOCAL college senior daughter, who grew up in Marin, has shared with me how she has been awakened as to how unaware and unconscious the liberal, well meaning White demographic is as to racism and racial issues in this County. (She even mailed me a book to help become more aware.) I do think the name Dixie is a noteworthy example. So, I think you would also be serving the cause of making people more conscious and sensitive to racial issues. While we have come a long way from the days of slavery, I believe we still have a ways to go. You can help here as well.

--
[Redacted signature block]
[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change

1 message

commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org


Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 1:31 PM


Hello,

I live in the Dixie school district and I support changing the name.

I like the name Live Oak Elementary School District

Thank you


San Rafael CA 94903





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

In favor of Dixie name change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 3:04 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School District representatives,

I have lived in the district for 21 years. My two children went through the Dixie School District. I am also a former school board member. I am in favor of changing the Dixie name. The Dixie name must be changed because it is synonymous

with the antebellum Deep South and the Confederacy. Retaining the name shows insensitivity at best toward our African American citizens and at worst is insulting, hurtful and disrespectful, not only to people of color, but also to those who lost their lives fighting on the side of the Union to keep our country together during the Civil War. I would also ask the Board not to put off changing the name until the matter is placed on the ballot. That will produce the same result as deciding to keep the Dixie name. That is a reason why those opposed to the name change want the ballot measure. The California Education Code gives the Board the authority to act on a petition to change the name, not the voters. There are times when the Board has to make difficult decisions without passing the matter off to the voters and this is one of them.

We need a district name that is inviting and inclusive, not one that sends the message that we are a white community that seeks to preserve an association with a time in our history that treated African Americans atrociously.

Regarding the names on the list, I will list the ones that I believe we should NOT adopt:

1. Mary Dixie – If this person really existed, she has no connection to the district. We should not name the district after a phantom or obscure person who had no influence on our community and district. More importantly, we need to get rid of the Dixie name all together.
2. Skywalker – The trademark to this name is owned by Lucasfilm Ltd, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company. Disney is very protective of their trademarks. The District should not want to get into a trademark infringement dispute with Disney. Disney will win.
3. Miwok – This name should not be adopted because the Miwok Tribe controls the name. Even if the District received consent from the Tribe, there is no guarantee that this would not be revoked in the future.

I have no strong preference regarding the remaining names. I trust the Board will use good judgment in selecting one of the other names.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

"Community Forum" on Feb. 6

2 messages

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 2:52 PM

Dear Dixie District Board:

The "community" forum planned for February 6 is a complete sham because it won't be a "community" forum. Social justice warriors from far and wide can and will attend, as well as local and national media. How is this going to be any different from the atmosphere that has characterized recent board meetings? We also don't know anything about the moderator, and what kind of agenda he/she will have.

This is a travesty. The only way to move forward on this "issue" is through a ballot initiative for registered voters in the Dixie District.

[REDACTED]

Jessica Freilich <jessicaf227@gmail.com>
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 2:57 PM

Sorry, I originally sent below without my full address

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: "Community Forum" on Feb. 6
Date: February 3, 2019 at 2:52:10 PM PST
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org
[Quoted text hidden]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 2:52 PM
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Hello,

I strongly vote for a name change of the Dixie School District, a name that has racial and offensive connotations. I would like to see the name represent all people of San Rafael and work toward a more inclusive and equitable future. The name Dixie is related to the South and to a past that most associate with slavery and the Civil War. Let's work to change this out-of-date and out-of-touch name that has no connection to anyone in San Rafael.

I particularly like the Lucas Valley Elementary School District.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]
Julie Clark Schiller



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

No Dixie in the name!

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 2:37 PM

Hi,

I'm writing to say that I really do hope you make the decision to take Dixie out of the name of your school district. With all of the systemic racism we're dealing with, with Trump in office and Stephen Miller calling the shots in the White House, with a new incident of racial hatred in the news every day, we need every symbol of white supremacy removed that we can get. This is so easy, and it would be so meaningful. The whole country is watching—I myself am writing from Los Angeles. Please do this. It's the least you can do to help minimize, if even in a small way, the awful oppression black people have to deal with every day in this country.

Thanks!


Jessica Craven

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

My Statement in Support of Changing the Name

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 2:35 PM

[REDACTED]
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] I live in the Dixie School District, and my son is currently a student at Dixie Elementary. I wanted to express my support for changing the name of Dixie.

When I first arrived into the district seven years ago I was overwhelmed by the community feel here and the inclusion within the school district. I didn't feel like an outsider, and was welcomed with open arms.

When it came time to enroll my kids into school I thought it was a bit strange that the name of the district was Dixie, as most people realize that its a name that conjures up hatred, racism, intolerance the exact opposite of what I was experiencing in the neighborhood. I must say I "overlooked" the name as I was frankly enamored with the feelings I was experience. I also noticed that we had a lack of diversity in the schools and always wished that we have more racial representation.

So fast forward to "today," as I see the debate over the name Dixie take place, one thing that strikes me is how it must feel to be one of the very few families of color, specifically African American, while this debate rages on. I would think that they would feel somewhat alienated as many comments, to my read, were very insensitive to their perspective. I come to this conclusion because we have already "lost" one family of color who decided that it was not the right place for them, partially due to the very strong response by some people who want to keep the Dixie name. In seeing the debate on next door, I can completely understand how they came to that incredibly disappointing conclusion.

So I say, let there be no ambiguity on the name, what it stands for and who we are as a district and community. I urge you to change the name to any of the of the options that have been presented, and let's have a name that embodies who we truly are.

Thank you for reading my note.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie ---name change

1 message

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 2:30 PM

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

Dixie Board Members:

My name is [REDACTED] residing at [REDACTED] San Rafael 94903. I have lived in the Dixie School District for 41 years and my three children attended Dixie schools and as adults assure me the name was always pleasantly acceptable. I currently have a grandson in the district at Miller Creek School.

I sent a proposed opinion piece to the Marin IJ and it was published in the Saturday (2/2/19) edition of the paper. Since it sets forth my views on the subject in a positive manner, I repeat its six paragraphs below inside the quotation marks.

"My formative years were in southwestern Virginia in the 1940s and '50s. History was one of my favorite subjects in both high school and college.

The word "Dixie" was a reference point and subject to multiple interpretations. From a negative and judgmental perspective it's identified with the old Confederacy and slavery. However, from a more objective and positive view it's the name given to those states south of the Mason-Dixon line from the mapping survey conducted 100 years before the Civil War.

Other positives are the music and cultural advances brought about by the creation and spread of Dixieland Jazz from the deep South to many other areas of the country, including the Bay Area, going back to the early 1900s.

Unfortunately, I've been reading for months about the Dixie name change and sense that more heat than light is driving the agenda. If an early board decision based on the petition process prevails, the anger and hostility generated could keep families and neighbors at odds for years. If the 2020 district voting process goes forward instead, then calmer and more reasoned voices may help restore community unity.

Hopefully the board will recognize the multiple issues affecting the children that need to be addressed that take primacy over the brouhaha surrounding the proposed name change.

The ultimate goal of course is too maintain the high standards of education and character development experienced by all children attending the four schools in the Dixie school district."

Sincerest thanks [REDACTED]

Dear Board Members

I am an immigrant from the Philippines and a happy longtime resident of the Dixie School District.

People of every race and color were enslaved and enslaved others. White people were still being bought and sold as slaves in the Ottoman Empire, decades after American blacks were freed. Is it appropriate to teach our children we are forever victims and that somebody owes you something as a general rule that has not done anything to you? Is building an ideological system based on you have to rectify mistakes made by your grandfather healthy? because we're never going to get beyond this since we have all sinned against each other's grandfathers. We all acknowledge the history of racism in America. Slavery was awful, evil treatment at the hands of awful evil people. We all acknowledge the collective sin of the United States in promulgating this and the individual sins. The reality is I wasn't born when Jim Crowe was in place, I know I'm not racist and would bet you money that the majority of the people in this neighborhood aren't racists. if somebody is actually trying to throw up obstacles in front of me in a way that is unjust and bigoted, I would point out the specific instance because I know my neighbors will side with me. I am sure they would be on the same side. They all want to help out; when somebody is a racist and trying to stop anyone, then they would want to sound off and stop that too. But this name change narrative is false, please cite example of any systemic racism brought about the name Dixie Schools? and calling my neighbors racist as whole when you can't point to specific problems is ridiculous. It is insulting a waste of time and It is you shifting the buck.

The Philippines were conquered and ruled by Spain for over 300 years. Many were enslaved. The Missions actually remind me of the Spanish Friars. Should we remove it? The Philippines was named to honor King Philip of Spain. The Filipino people are happy with the name of their Country and don't want it changed despite the poor treatment the indigenous people often received at the hands of the Spanish. Perhaps this could be the next great crusade?

The insinuation that minorities are perpetual victims hurts them, it is False, condescending, arrogant and backward.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
15 Gallegos Ave SR 9431

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

Dixie School District name change

2 messages

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 9:14 PM

I want to go on record about the controversy and proposed name change for the Dixie School District. I moved to this school district over 7 years ago and have 2 sons who attended Mary Silvieira Elementary and then Miller Creek Middle School. After taking a job in Richmond, we moved into this district because of the high quality schools and the reputation of locals being warm, open minded and hard working people. Every area has its challenges but we have never second guessed our decision. The area, people and schools have been everything we hoped it would be. Dixie has come to represent all that is great about our community. A lovely word to represent an inclusive and caring community.

The tactics that have been taken by self righteous politically correct do gooders has been disappointing. Controversy has been ginned up over a southern word that has no connection whatsoever with the word and what it represents to local residents. And these same do gooders do not feel that it is the community's right to vote on how to proceed. Such strong armed tactics can not be allowed or more politically correct affronts will be generated with the same tactics used. I'm ready to vote and will happily accept the will of the local populace. It's telling that the do gooders are not wanting this vote to happen.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA. 94903
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Doug Swenson <jayhawkswenson@aol.com>
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 7:12 AM

Separate note. The board member who elevated this issue above those directly tied to the education of our children needs to resign immediately. If not, a recall vote needs to take place. Her actions have been shameful.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA. 94903
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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