



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep the name

1 message

[REDACTED] Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 8:53 AM
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear Dixie School Board,

I moved to Marinwood since I was 2. I went to Dixie/Miller Creek/Terra Linda. My parents were one of the few Asians in the neighborhood since 1978. Since 2015, my wife and I chose to move back here with our young kids primarily due to the excellent school district. Despite all our choices of where to live, we made this choice in part due to my firsthand experience having gone through the district.

Growing up, I was a minority in the schools. I have one memory of when I was in Dixie and after being dropped off at the bus stop to walk home. Several boys found a shopping cart on the side of the road and started to try to run me over with it. They chased me all the way home. Being an Asian kid in a majority white school, that incident could have been seen as a hate crime. My mom was so upset when I came home crying, and immediately called the principal's office to complain. The principal then setup a meeting where all the parents and kids involved would meet. They resolved it with making sure the kids apologized and in the end, those boys became some of my closest friends through the rest of my school years.

This story may seem commonplace now, but back in the 80s it says a lot about the community that an incident like this was resolved in such a manner. The Dixie School District may have it's problems but in terms of trying to be inclusive of people of all backgrounds, I have to say, this is the kind of memory that comes to mind.

The administration cannot appease everyone, but it has to look at facts. Is there proof that the district was named to honor the confederacy or is it just because of the coincidence of it being named during the Civil War? If the district has tried to be inclusive and work towards bettering equity and inclusion, is a name change going to improve the life quality of any child? My point is that there are many more tangible needs to be met in this school district well before a name change. If it must be changed, however, I would prefer that the community weigh in with the previously voted upon advisory vote. Please do not make this decision in a hasty manner without full community input. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
Thomas A. [REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name

2 messages

[Redacted]
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 12:50 PM

Dear Board Members and Superintendent,

Thank you again for your work and dedication on behalf of the families in the Dixie School District.

As a resident of the Dixie District, parent of two Dixie District graduates and former employee of the Dixie School District - I urge you to use your resources, time, money - or anyone's money on the crucial issue of school security. Any parent or administrator knows the importance and challenge of school security.

For the last 26 years I have been actively involved in this district and community. This community does not condone racism and never has. It is apparent that the group supporting a name change has tried to shame, label, and divide students, teachers and families. I ask that this community be judged by the content of our character and our actions. This community has strong feelings of pride, inclusiveness and fairness.

A teachable moment for our students regarding the Dixie name should and could have happened without the name calling, innuendos, accusations and attention from local and national press. Teach them the history of the Civil War from 1861-1865, and the connection of the word Dixie. Teach them also that TODAY every person named Dixie is not a racist, towns named Dixie are not racist, Dixie Chickes are not racist, dogs named Dixie are not racist, Dixie University is not racist and certainly paper cups are not racist. This name change has NOT been about our students or families. You cannot change or erase history because some are offended today, in the year 2019. By educating the student you do not deny the existance of the name Dixie.

How would a school district handle a student, teacher or parent named Dixie? How would that person feel?

I question why I am being asked to resend an email. My original email should be on file.

Thank you
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 8:33 AM

Dear Board Members and Superintendent,

Thank you again for your work and dedication on behalf of the families in the Dixie School District.

As a resident of the Dixie District, parent of two Dixie District graduates and former employee of the Dixie School District - I urge you to use your resources, time, money - or anyone's money on the crucial issue of school security. Any parent or administrator knows the importance and challenge of school security.

For the last 26 years I have been actively involved in this district and community. This community does not condone racism and never has. It is apparent that the group supporting a name change has tried to shame, label, and divide students, teachers and families. I ask that this community be judged by the content of our character and our actions. This community has strong feelings of pride, inclusiveness and fairness.

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Dixie Name

A teachable moment for our students regarding the Dixie name should and could have happened without the name calling, innuendos, accusations and attention from local and national press. Teach them the history of the Civil War from 1861-1865, and the connection of the word Dixie. Teach them also that TODAY every person named Dixie is not a racist, towns named Dixie are not racist, Dixie Chicks are not racist, dogs named Dixie are not racist, Dixie University is not racist and certainly paper cups are not racist. This name change has NOT been about our students or families. You cannot change or erase history because some are offended today, in the year 2019. By educating the student you do not deny the existance of the name Dixie.

How would a school district handle a student, teacher or parent named Dixie? How would that person feel?

I question why I am being asked to resend an email. My original email should be on file.

Thank you.

A blacked-out redaction box covering the sender's name and contact information. The text "Resident since 1998" is visible through the redaction.



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

Dixie name change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 8:12 AM


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I regret that your hands seem to be tied regarding the change of the name of our school district. My feeling is that this issue should be voted upon by the community. I'm appalled that so few signatures were required to submit name changes for consideration. Indeed, I'm appalled that it is really being considered a legitimate "issue" at all.

I've lived in the school district for over twenty years and have sent two over-achieving students through Vallecito, Miller Creek (in the shadow of the Dixie School House) and Terra Linda High.

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Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 7:58 AM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Good Day,

I have been a resident of Terra Linda for the last 28 years, with our property in the Dixie School District's boundaries. I have raised 3 children here, all attending schools in the District. I would like to state that the much discussed name change of the Dixie School District, should be decided by a popular vote of the citizens in the community. This would ensure that any changes are done by the demographic process.

I urge you to refer this matter to the citizens of San Rafael for vote.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Dear Dixie School Board of Trustees,

I submitted a version of the following to the Marin IJ, thank you for reading this one.

Gen Z is defined by kids born between 1996 and 2012 This is the vast majority of children currently in the Dixie School district. When they come of age, how will they feel about being alumni of "Dixie", with its historical racist implications? The Washington Post ran a story on January 17th about this generation and how they are likely to vote in the future.

Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan fact tank, studies demographic trends that shape social issues and opinion. They found that Gen Z is more liberal and inclusive than previous generations. When members of Generation Z reach adulthood, they will be the most educated and the most diverse generation in American history.

My own kids—they are 8 and 12 years old— and their friends are anxious. Why wouldn't they be, when they participate in lockdown drills? When they learn about animal extinctions and the negative impacts of climate change? When they hear about kids in detention centers on the news? These are the harsh realities of the world they will inherit. According to Pew Research, youth are becoming more politically active, and feel more empowered than Generation X, and much more so than baby boomers did. I am convinced that the kids in our community will join their peers across the nation and do better than we have done.

If the Dixie School District name does not change now, there will be another fight to change it in the future: This current attempt is the fourth and most supported. I would assume, based on the research, that a more inclusive local generation will take this under their wing and make the change happen, with less resistance. I do not believe most kids in the district think much about the impact of the name "Dixie". I do believe many of the same kids will move away and return as residents or visitors, with a different perspective. The world is changing whether we like it or not. My 12 year old games regularly (much to my chagrin) online with kids from New Zealand, Mexico, Germany, the UK and even Bangladesh! Demographics are changing and we live in a global village. That change is even coming to Marin.

Words carry weight and they have the power to shape culture. In this modernizing world, holding on to a complicated word like "Dixie" makes us appear antiquated. Some nods to the past are charming, some have historical importance. Although our current name may have some historical importance, I don't believe it adds value to our district. The community is weighing in. Do we want to live in the past or do we want to influence the future? As elected officials you face a difficult decision. I ask you to to make history by paving the way for the inevitable.

Respectfully,

A large, dark, irregularly shaped redaction mark covering the signature area.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Previously sent to School Board on Sept 22, 2018

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 7:56 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To our Dixie School Board:

As a minority, you can have a unique experience in life. I am a 40 year old American-born Chinese female. I have lived a bi-cultural life of being both fully American and being fully Chinese, and at the risk of being vulnerable in my community, I wanted to put my family's experience on the table.

My husband who was born in Houston, where his birth certificate, under the category of Ethnicity, says "Yellow", moved to Marinwood when he was 2 years old. He was one of maybe 25 Asian students out of 370 when he attended Dixie more than 30 years ago. Equity and Inclusion were not buzz words back then.

They moved to Marinwood because of its outdoor space and pleasantness as well as it's close proximity to SF Chinatown where my father-in-law opened and ran a popular ginseng shop for nearly 40 years. My father-in-law grew up during war time in China, my mother-in-law was born in and fled North Korea in war time as well. They undoubtedly understood hard times. Due to the neighborhood being majority white and fearing their kids would not "fit in", they chose not to teach their two boys either of their native languages of Chinese or Korean. That decision is one that affects my kids today because their own parents cannot easily teach them their heritage through language.

When my husband graduated Dixie Elementary, Miller Creek Middle, and Terra Linda High he went on to UC Davis where he found it to be a new world because there were so many more people who looked and thought like him. His lifelong best friends, being all Asian, he met when he was exposed to a much more diverse environment than this Marinwood community.

Why am I bringing this up? Because even if you vote to change the name, you will not be able to change the majority white environment. Humans gravitate towards those who understand them and the color of your skin is a first indicator. But that's just what it is, a cursory first indicator, after that people become comfortable with each other as they find commonalities.

I myself have found many commonalities here with those who oppose the name change because of our desire to do what's best for the children and the community as a whole. My respect for those who will stand up for what's right and not just what feels good, despite being a smaller voice in the crowd, has skyrocketed. I appreciate this fight for the sake that I have connected with other like-minded community members who coincidentally do not share my skin color.

It was not easy being the only Asian female speaker at the last school board meeting and I didn't realize my voice would tremble the whole time. But I didn't like the monetary deterrent from the kids education and the misplaced hurt that this issue was causing our community. In the Next Door forums, there has been a blame that white people and "white fragility" are responsible for racist attitudes prohibiting this name change. Blaming white people or white attitudes for racism is ridiculous. To me, racism is human nature veering towards security and comfort and must only be combated by discernment, compassion and courage.

Even if you vote to have the name changed, Equity and Inclusion will not be achieved except by spending time and energy to genuinely speak to someone who doesn't look like us, think like us and maybe even makes us feel a little uncomfortable. Doing all that, while leaving the name the same, might very well bridge the gap that those seeking to change the name are looking for. Thank you very much for taking the time to read my thoughts on this issue.

At the very least, in an effort to show you want to hear from all of your constituents, even the more quiet and shy ones, please let this community have the opportunity to participate in a colorblind advisory vote before you make this decision.

Sincerely,



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:13 AM

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

We believe that, as our elected trustees, your primary responsibility is to be the stewards of our children's education.

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

We are writing in lieu of attending the upcoming board meeting as we want to ensure that you can get back to dealing with the many real issues that are facing our children in our schools.

Sincerely,





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:06 AM

Please change the school district name. Both my daughters went through the Dixie District - Vallecito, then Miller Creek. My daughters received an excellent education. What they remember most are the teachers and fellow students. They were not attached to the name "Dixie". After all, we're not located in Alabama or Mississippi. I know this issue came up before when they were attending district schools but my wife and I were just too busy with work, commute, raising two girls, extracurricular school activities. Now that we have a grandson who will eventually be going to the school district, this has become a concern for us.

Please change the name.

Sincerely,





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE TO ASK NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO MAKE SUCH A BIG DECISIONS. THEY ARE NOT PREPARED.

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:06 AM

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

Dear School Board Members:

In November 2018, a very seasoned board voted 4-1 to take the name change issue to an advisory vote as it was too big for them to decide on their own. This was not a decision they took lightly. You can see the highlights from the board meeting here <https://wearedixie.org/dixie-board-meeting-videos/>.

But one month later two brand new board members, along with the sitting members, were presented with 13 petitions to change the name of the district. We are sorry that the board is being faced with such a divisive topic and that our two newest members were bombarded with this only two weeks into their term. It is clear the petitions were strategically served to take advantage of the novice members, and that is unacceptable.

From what I understand, typically the first six months of a new trustee's tenure is spent learning about process, budgets and teamwork. Instead they are being forced to make such a monumental decision that will have a long term effect on our district and our community without having the experience. Asking our entire school board to make a decision on changing the name of a 150 year old district without truly hearing from your **14,200** constituents is irresponsible.

I feel the two new board members need more time in their positions and all of you need time to hear from the entire community before you can be prepared to make a decision on whether or not to change the name of our district.

Please hear our voices.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

name change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 9:43 AM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Hello,

I am writing to express my support of changing the school district name from Dixie to something that is not offensive or divisive to members of the community. This is an opportunity to teach our kids that sensitivity to people is not based on a price tag but doing what is correct. While the association of the name might not be an issue for the majority of people it does not mean the minority that feel offended should not be heard and respected. The cost is nominal and no doubt there are people that would be willing to donate to help offset the cost if that is really the issue at hand.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Rafael, Ca.

94903

Resident for 12 years



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the Name Petitions

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 9:32 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Many people have asked why changing the name of our school district is so important to me. While I have a few reasons ranging in levels of importance, the overarching one is that the name is a painful reminder of racial, ethnic and religious hatred that have marred and continue to plague our country.

I have spoken at several school board meetings of the lens through which I look at this name change. As a first generation American, I learned early in my life of the struggle for freedom since my parents were escapees from the Holocaust and had to create a new life for themselves here. My family's history was based in the wholesale slaughter of a people because of its religion. America's history includes the wholesale enslavement and torture of a people based on the color of its skin.

Since Auschwitz was one of the Holocaust's centers of slaughter, it would be totally inappropriate for a name for a school district because of what it represents. The site itself was preserved by becoming a museum but it is also important to note the policy of denazification of Germany, which included painting over swastikas and discarding portraits of Hitler.

History is one thing and memorials another. The Dixie Schoolhouse Museum will represent the history. However, when a community names a building, a school or school system, it bestows honor and legitimacy. This makes the memorial every bit as much about values, status quo, and future as about remembrance. The name Dixie is so closely aligned with the Confederacy, slavery, and the subjugation of a people, that it is time for the change.

Please look at a name change as a value or a moral obligation, to be inclusive of all in our community. It is imperative that students confront slavery, racism, and exclusivity so they can be prepared for a future that supports more understanding of history and its complications.

Respectfully submitted,

[Redacted]
San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 9:21 AM

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

To Whom This May Concern:

As a realtor, I am fully aware of the direct correlation between a strong school district and the value of a home. The Dixie School District is what attracted my family to move here in the first place in 2011. We came from the peninsula, San Mateo specifically, where the public school in our neighborhood was broken. My first grade son needed help in reading, but he didn't qualify. The program offered at our neighborhood school was impacted with other first graders who were even worse off.

We discovered the Dixie School District, found a house within the boundaries, and made a quick decision to sell our house in San Mateo and buy in Marinwood. Although it was April, I was thankful to have found a school where my son could get extra help at school, paid the voluntary amount that is requested to fund the amazing CanDo! program, and began donating my time in the classroom. I became involved with many voluntary jobs within the school, such as Math Centers, the Dixie Diner, driving for field trips and helping at the book faire. I was so impressed with the many, many parents who all pitched in to make Dixie so strong. It was a big contrast to what I had left in San Mateo, which had very few volunteers and very little money to spend on effective art and music programs. (They couldn't even afford to keep the school library opened but a few hours per week.)

We have been here for almost eight years now, and I continue to pay the annual voluntary amount to CanDo! for my 7th grade daughter and now 9th grade son who is in the San Rafael School District at Terra Linda High. We are happy to help with the contribution, believing that our \$600 for Miller Creek and \$500 for Terra Linda is going to all the amazing programs listed on the flyers, talked about at the Back to School Night welcome speech, and in every email I receive requesting the contribution. This is what I give money for, not a school name change.

All of my friends living in our community are proud of Dixie and thankful to send their kids to exceptional schools. Parents are united in giving money, time, ideas, energy, and love to the Dixie School District, knowing that we all together make a huge difference. And my clients know this; they request to live in the Dixie School District when buying a home.

Our community needs the opportunity to vote on the petition to change Dixie's name. None of us are buying the reasons to change it. To spend the thousands of dollars to appease the outsiders and help them further their political goals is ridiculous. I did not give my thousands of dollars to be squandered by political activists, and never will. And neither did any of the families in our community.

Perhaps a history lesson should be taught to everyone to educate them on the origin of our great school district's name? The history of Dixie Dolls, Dixie brand cups, even Dixie State University is quite interesting, and was never intended to offend. Our church receptionist was also named Dixie, and she was not offensive in her beliefs or actions. Why would the Dixie School District be any different?

I also believe this decision is too vast for our Dixie School Board members to decide, especially due to the fact that two members have only been in their position for a couple of months. Let the community that gives their time, money and energy the chance to voice their opinions. Put it on the ballot in 2020.

Finally, it is disgusting to see how much time has been spent on this topic. To answer the rhetorical question, "Don't they have anything better to do?" Yes, they sure do. And they all need to get back to work and stop being distracted with political attacks on our community.

Thank you,



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

A request from a Lucas Valle/Dixie Mom

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 9:20 AM


to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

This letter's purpose is to ask you all to NOT support the Change the Name initiative. ITS ALL ABOUT THE KIDS AND HOW WE SPEND OUR TIME TO HELP THEM GROW AND LEARN!

We are opposed.

The DIXIE name has nothing to do with RACISM. The schools in our district are wonderful and the a considerable amount of time, money and energy has been wasted on this cause.

Social Justice is incredibly important in ours and all communities, but this name change does not provide a tangible help to any child. Imagine if this energy was put into things to help our students and schools?

Think of all of the positive things the CTN group could be doing with the time spent and money raised on this "issue" that will not help one single student.

My name is Janet Mansinne. My husband, Matt and I have lived in Lucas Valley for 8 years. Our daughters attend Dixie Elementary and Miller Creek. Our address is

4 Mt. Diablo Circle.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter!





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the Name to reflect the inclusive values of our community

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 9:08 AM

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

Dear Trustees of the Dixie School District,

I write to ask you to change the name of our school district, replacing the current name which is inextricably connected to America's history of slavery, segregation, and racism.

My name is [REDACTED] I am a homeowner (731 Del Ganado), taxpayer, and voter in the district. I also serve as Chaplain and Dean of Students at [REDACTED] Theological Seminary -- the [REDACTED] seminary in [REDACTED]

My husband and I moved to Marin County from Alabama 14 years ago. When we bought our home on Del Ganado, I was stunned when my husband told me the name of the school district -- Dixie. I asked him, "Do you think they know what it means?"

The word "Dixie" has a particular meaning connected to a particular history -- it is a history of slavery, confederacy, segregation, and resistance to civil rights. The word is connected to this stream of American history -- and the word carries this meaning throughout the country. I've heard folks say, "Well, we don't MEAN that here in Marin," some of them offering an alternative story that they say might connect to an indigenous woman from the 1800s. We all know -- and they know (look at the careful way the they make this assertion) -- that there is not one bit of historical evidence to support this. The actual history of the name -- a dare to name it after the confederacy, attested in the schoolhouse history by descendants of the namer -- specifically attaches the name to the obvious history and meaning of the word.

But even more important than how the name historically came about is the present harm it is doing to our students in the district -- and particularly the harm to students and families of color. You have heard in public hearings (and I'm sure in these public comments) of the harm that students and parents experience every day when they go to a school whose name evokes white supremacy.

There may have been a time when you could have said, "Oh, we didn't know." But now you do. We are having a thorough conversation, and we are discussing plainly the meaning of this name, its connection to America's sorry history of racism, and the harm it is doing to our students. Now you know, now we know. The question now is, "What will you do?"

There's also rhetoric that this should be "decided by the voters" -- well, we all know that California law provides for school name changes to be decided by the voters through their elected representatives -- through you. By law, you are the way that this issue is decided by the voters -- we have elected you as trustees, this is your fiduciary, elected responsibility.

Right now, across the nation, public officials are being asked to remove symbols that evoke this history. This is your moment, and I hope you will do the right thing -- and find a new and better name -- one that better reflects the inclusive values of this community.

Many blessings in your deliberation and discernment.

Respectfully

[REDACTED]
San Rafael



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the name of the school

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 8:55 AM

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

I have lived in Marin for 52 years, Please please change the name of the school; It's an embarrassment and shameful to have a school named Dixie!

[REDACTED]
Larkspur, CA 94939



- Call
- Send SMS
- Add to Skype
- You'll need Skype CreditFree via Skype



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

TIMELINE OF THE BETRAYAL OF MS. GLICKMAN REGARDING THE NAME CHANGE -- #NOTLIKETHIS

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:17 AM

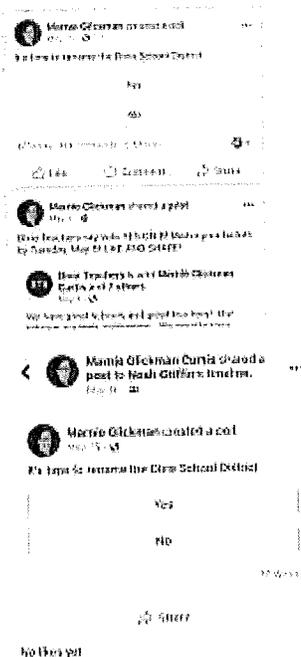
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

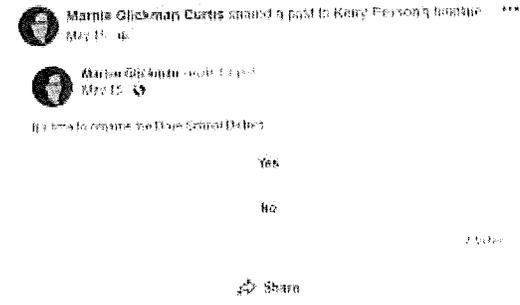
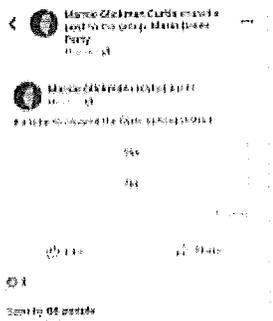
Below is the timeline that outlines the process Trustee Glickman took to push forward her own agenda of changing the name of the Dixie school district. As you can see, her path started beginning in May of 2018 and the people she reached out to were neither her constituents nor fellow trustees. Should she be rewarded for such a betrayal to her constituents? That's up to you. Please hear our voices!

Thank you.

May 8, 2018: The parcel tax passed, requiring each household in the district to pay \$470 annually, which goes directly to the funding of the Dixie School District.

May 15, 2018: Covered by the distraction created by the parcel tax success for funding the school district, Ms. Glickman Curtis, without conferring with her Dixie School District constituents at large, brought in outside activists and began her campaign to rename Dixie by posting polls on Facebook and Twitter: *It is Time to Rename Dixie "yes" or "no"*.

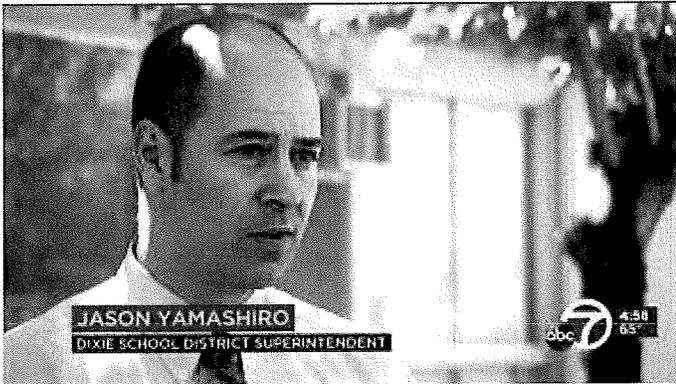
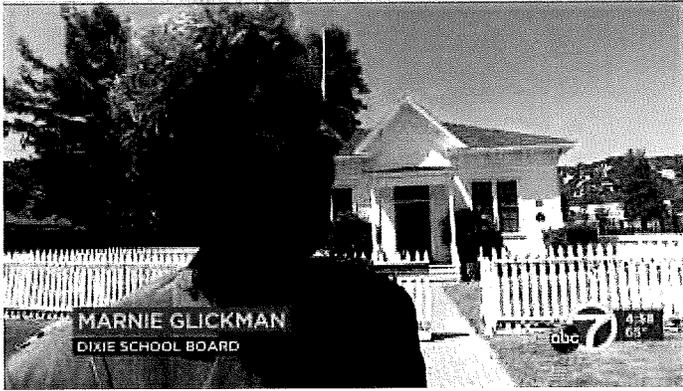




July 1, 2018: Marnie Glickman Curtis and three activists who had been involved in prior attempts to change the district's name (Noah Griffin from Tiburon, Kerry Pierson from Mill Valley, and Sukey Schwartz from Marin City) visit the Dixie School House.



July 29, 2018: Internet efforts promoting the name change were circulated among members sympathetic to the activist cause. The majority of these members are not district residents



September 11, 2018: Ms. Glickman Curtis visited the Marin Human Rights Commission with husband David Curtis and Kerry Peirson.

 **David Curtis** @dcurtis Sep 11
 @MarnieC speaking at the Marin Human Rights Commission - at Marin County Civic Center





October 9, 2018: At a public board meeting of the Dixie School District, with over 60 members of the public in attendance, Marnie Glickman Curtis opposed the reading of the first resolution to bring this issue to the general public for an advisory vote. Her prepared remarks can be found on her blog. <http://www.marnieglickman.org/schoolblog>

October 15, 2018: Ms. Glickman Curtis, via a letter from her attorney, implies potential litigation against the school board and district, stating they breached the Brown Act.

Pro Vision
Law
Partners

October 15, 2018

Mr. Noel Shanway
Dixie School District
1000 W. Main St.
Dixie, MO 64841

Dear Mr. Noel Shanway:
I am writing to you regarding the Dixie School District's name change. I am a member of the community and I am concerned about the impact of this change on our students and the community. I am also a member of the legal profession and I am concerned about the potential for litigation and other legal issues that may arise from this change. I am writing to you to express my concerns and to request that you take steps to address these concerns. I am also writing to you to request that you take steps to ensure that the name change process is fair and transparent. I am also writing to you to request that you take steps to ensure that the name change process is in the best interests of our students and the community. I am also writing to you to request that you take steps to ensure that the name change process is in the best interests of our students and the community. I am also writing to you to request that you take steps to ensure that the name change process is in the best interests of our students and the community.

Noel Shanway and Manuel Martinez
October 15, 2018
Page 2

if Board Member A has consulted Board Member B about the Dixie name change, they are forever off limits from discussing the name change outside of the meeting with Board Member C.

I know, as an elected official myself, that people volunteer for these positions with the best of intentions. None of the Board Members, including Ms. Glickman, should incur personal liability for Brown Act violations. In addition, given the strong public sentiment regarding the Dixie name change, this matter could end up in litigation and such violations would undoubtedly be revealed. I litigate regularly with municipalities and sometimes these Brown Act issues come into play. When they do, I typically make a public records request and seek all documents and emails regarding the matter. The attached email is one that would cause great embarrassment to the Members of the Board.

If you wish to discuss the matter, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Breklus

Enclosure

October 16, 2018 Marnie engaged a human rights group on Twitter to try and gain external support against our community.



Marnie Glickman Curtis @marniecurtis Oct 16
Stand up for racial justice with me. We will not be silent in the face of bullying and threats. Help us change the name of #Dixie School District named after the Confederacy during the Civil War. It's time to #LoseTheLostCause changethename.net @SutajBayer @NURMarnie



Home
changethename.net

Retweet icon, Reply icon, Like icon



Follow

SURJ Bay Area

@surjbayarea

Showing Up for Racial Justice - Bay Area

-Moving white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability.

November 13th 2018 Marnie Glickman Curtis is the lone vote against taking the name change to the community. She threatens that the KKK may fund the campaign to keep the name and that bringing this matter to a public vote will bring rioters that throw Molotov Cocktails. Below is the full video of her speech to the board.

November 7th 2018 The Change the name group came out with a letter to their supporters naming Marnie Glickman Curtis as one of their fearless leaders. Imagine electing someone to congress and finding out afterwards that they were the head of a lobby group that was pitching their cause to congress.

It Ain't Over Till It's Over

By Noah Griffin

As an interim report, we in the Change The Name coalition have much to be heartened by. What began as a lone quest by Kerry Peirson 21 years ago has been supplemented by the courage and leadership skills of District Trustee Marnie Glickman. Add to that the scores of parents, organizers, social media experts, community leaders, historians and social justice warriors. Thank you.

Our issue has gained traction and supporters which are growing day by day. Recently added to our cause is the Marin Interfaith Council, the Marin Community Foundation's President and CEO Tom Peters and Vice President of Engagement Jonathan Logan and County Supervisor Kate Sears.

The Marin IJ Editorial Board has flatly stated the Trustees should lead the name change. The letters to the editor and op-eds from our supporters have been key in persuading those on the fence or needing cover to declare their support.

Our wave of support continues to grow and momentum shifts our way. This story has national implications as a feature piece and is ripe for a documentary. In many ways, we are trying to save Marin County from itself.

With all the positive news, the name change party and the upcoming dates to present names to the Board and side fundraising efforts, we still need to be mindful of the fact we have not crossed the finish line and will not be on the other side unless and until the name is changed. We have to stay vigilant, stay active and keep applying the pressure.

December 18th 2018 Marnie Glickman Curtis posted a photo of herself laughing at an article in the Marin IJ that came out discussing the turmoil in the Dixie Community.

 marniemix
Linda Mally Cat Lovers



24 likes

marniemix Big guns join fray in #Dixie turmoil #Marin #SanRafael
vickigothan The news is great! And I love this picture.

December 23rd 2018 Marnie's husband David Curtis wrote a letter to the Marin County School Supervisor undermining one of her fellow board members and attempting to get the other board member off of the Dixie School Board. We feel that Marnie should be working with her fellow board members to come up with a solution for the district and not working against them and threatening law suits and asking for their resignation if they disagree.

12/21/2018

Mary Ann Burke

Main County Superintendent of Schools

superintendent@maincountyschools.org | 415.498.5311

Superintendent Burke,

I am writing to you as a parent of a Dixie School District student.

Ms. Glickman should resign from the Dixie School District board of trustees.

She has violated her oath of office on multiple occasions:

1. She participated in both closed session and open session violations of the Brown Act as documented in the recent letters from two attorneys by two different district members/trustees.
2. She conspired with Spring Trustee, School and Trustee Hoesinger to delay potential efforts to legally change the name through judicial, and brought forward a limited vote of a non-qualified item to require a public vote on the issue in two years. This action does nothing to present problems. She is literally wasting everyone's time.
3. She has blocked for no legitimate reason, Trustee Glickman from having multiple agenda items during her service as a VP.
4. She has held committee meetings in violation of the Brown Act to block the effort to change the name of the District. This is documented in two attorney letters to the District that have been posted to the district website.
5. She has publicly stated (in open session) she intends to block attempts to bring forward petitions to change the district name. Withholding is constitutionally protected.
6. She is unresponsive. She directed staff to send an email deadline to invite trustees to what would have been a meeting to discuss subject matter that also would have been a Brown Act violation.
7. Her performance at meetings: She is often barely awake, frequently yawns, and barely maintains focus.
8. She routinely ignores other trustee's requests in open session. She literally acts as if she did

not hear multiple requests, or open sessions.

4. She should resign immediately and let a more competent person be identified for the position.

Respectfully,



David Curtis

95 El Capitan Drive

San Rafael, CA 94901



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name Change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:22 AM

[Redacted sender information]

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

Dear School Board ad Trustees,

LET'S FOCUS ON TOPICS THAT CAN BE A TANGIBLE HELP TO OUR KIDS. A considerable amount of time, money and energy has been wasted on this cause. Social Justice is incredibly important in ours and all communities, but this name change does not provide a tangible help to any child. Imagine if this energy was put into things to help our students and schools? We have a 15% poverty rate in our district. Poverty is real in our district and there should be more of a focus on assisting others that are not as fortunate in our community. Think of all of the positive things the CTN group could be doing with the time spent and money raised on this "issue" that will not help one single student.

I have spent 30 years in the district, volunteering at the school, coaching Dixie district sports of Basketball, softball and soccer. This district has been a loving and involved community. Let's maintain that focus, keep our resources focused on teaching children to be inclusive, responsible and loving members of society.

The name embodies the native people from this area. Respect them and our local heritage.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name

1 message

[REDACTED] Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:25 AM
To: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear School Board and Trustees,

LET'S FOCUS ON TOPICS THAT CAN BE A TANGIBLE HELP TO OUR KIDS. A considerable amount of time, money and energy has been wasted on this cause. Social Justice is incredibly important in ours and all communities, but this name change does not provide a tangible help to any child. Imagine if this energy was put into things to help our students and schools? We have a 15% poverty rate in our district. Poverty is real in our district and there should be more of a focus on assisting others that are not as fortunate in our community. Think of all of the positive things the CTN group could be doing with the time spent and money raised on this "issue" that will not help one single student.

My children went to the Dixie Schools and I have spent 30 years in the district, volunteering at the school, coaching Dixie District sports of Baseball, Basketball, Softball and Soccer. This district has been a loving and involved community.

Let's maintain that focus, keep our resources focused on teaching children to be inclusive, responsible and loving members of society.

The name embodies the native people from this area. Respect them and our local heritage.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep Dixie -- Dixie

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:26 AM

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

Hello ...my name is [REDACTED] I wanted to email you today regarding the Dixie name change and why I feel it should remain the same name!

I am an alumni of Dixie Elementary, Miller Creek and eventually a graduate of Terra Linda (class of 1994). My two daughters are currently at Vallecito in 2nd and 5th grade! I moved back home for many reasons but a huge portion of that decision was based on this school district! My husband and I were renting near Santa Venetia when our oldest was about to start kindergarten. Realizing we were in the San Rafael School District, we moved to a rental a few months before the school year started so that [REDACTED] could enroll in Dixie School District.

Why you may ask would we uproot our family in a perfectly fine home solely for the school district? Since I was a little kid, this school district has been known in Marin County and surrounding counties as an amazing school district. Lots of opportunities for the kids, the parents and enormous praise for the teachers and principals! I loved my childhood...growing up at Dixie itself (both of my brothers attended as well), playing in Dixie soccer and Dixie little league! We have memories there...but it goes way beyond sentimental value. I understand that some folks feel a negativity towards the name...but I can tell you as a child who went there and who have children who currently go there...we don't see it that way. We have never ever heard our kids mention it in a negative light. I never did....and I still have friends who I went to school there with who say the same thing!

We moved and bought a home in the area for the community, the school district and to have the ability to raise our kids with a repeat of my childhood! They played Dixie soccer. They go to Dixie School District. Now I agree that it is horrible what its doing to our community and our Board Members. They should not have to have this burden...honestly it should go to on a ballet. Let the people vote if its that important....but this issue has come up a few times in my 43 years and honestly its the outsiders that bring it up!

Who is the CTN group...why do they care about our small little town? Shouldn't we be battling for more stand up desks, raises for our teachers, more community events! Dixie has so many memories attached to it and your remove the name, you remove the memories....

I respectfully ask you to keep our name, our memories!
Thank you



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please change the school district name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:26 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School Board members,

I appreciate your volunteer efforts to build a strong community with an excellent school district. I believe that you are in a meaningful position at this unique point in time, to make a positive change for our community.

I strongly urge you to vote to change the name of our school district from Dixie to Live Oak Elementary. The name Dixie, while perhaps not intended to insult us, whether we are white, black or brown, indeed does insult me. I don't believe that any of my neighbors who want to keep the name intend to do that. We have a unique opportunity now to use this name change as a powerful and meaningful teaching moment for our students and the nation.

I suggest the name Live Oak Elementary because our Coast Live Oak is a tree that is one of our top native trees resistant to climate change, to fire, and to drought, and sequesters the most carbon from our atmosphere.

Let's keep our community moving forward,

Terra Linda



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name Chnage

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:29 AM

[REDACTED]
To: Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear School Board and Trustees,

Our peaceful community has been dragged through the mud. Our kind and generous community has turned toxic. All of this has been driven by a very small group of people, including one school board member, who want to change the name of our district. The pattern of their behaviors is reprehensible and should not be tolerated or rewarded. The Change the Name (CTN) group has contacted every media outlet they can and have attempted to make our small-town national news. They are trying to frighten this community into silence by threatening lawsuits against the school district and local community members and calling them names that are not true in order to get their agenda pushed through. The We Are Dixie group has not reached out to one news source and has tried to keep this issue local. The tactics to change the name have been dirty and extremely toxic to our community. Changing the name at this point would benefit no one and would continue to divide our community. We need time to heal and approach this with education as the top priority. Then our community will know this comes from a place of both heart and mind. We will not be labeled as anything that is not focused first on the welfare and high standards for educating children.

The name embodies the native people from this area. Respect them and maintain the heritage of the local people and community.

Peace on Earth,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:30 AM

[Redacted sender information]

To: Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dear School Board and Trustees,

Our peaceful community has been dragged through the mud. Our kind and generous community has turned toxic. All of this has been driven by a very small group of people, including one school board member, who want to change the name of our district. The pattern of their behaviors is reprehensible and should not be tolerated or rewarded. The Change the Name (CTN) group has contacted every media outlet they can and have attempted to make our small-town national news. They are trying to frighten this community into silence by threatening lawsuits against the school district and local community members and calling them names that are not true in order to get their agenda pushed through. The We Are Dixie group has not reached out to one news source and has tried to keep this issue local. The tactics to change the name have been dirty and extremely toxic to our community. Changing the name at this point would benefit no one and would continue to divide our community. We need time to heal and approach this with education as the top priority. Then our community will know this comes from a place of both heart and mind. We will not be labeled as anything that is not focused first on the welfare and high standards for educating children.

The name embodies the native people from this area. Respect them and maintain the heritage of the local people and community.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:30 AM

Change the name!



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Relevant facts to be placed on record

1 message

We Are Dixie <werdixie@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 8:31 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To the Dixie School Board,

We feel the following needs to be on record for what has been researched on the history of James Miller surrounding the naming of Dixie School District.

We also would like this timeline of what has transpired with school board member Marnie Glickman. We feel she has been far from transparent in her process to get the district name changed. In 2015, while campaigning to become a school board trustee, she stated that changing the district name was not a priority for her. Clearly, that is no longer the case.

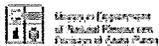
Respectfully,
We Are Dixie

2 attachments

 **The History Of James Miller.docx**
1101K

 **MarnieGlickman.docx**
832K

The History Of James Miller/Founder of Dixie School



Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
Division of Game & Fish

Slavery's Echoes: Interviews with Former Missourian Slaves Slaves in Missouri by County

Please give credit to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri State Museum. The following information was compiled from the United States Census records by staff of the Missouri State Museum.

County	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860
ADAIR				91	96
ANDREW				662	692
ATCHISON				30	38
AURELIA			193	437	1,168
BARRY			268	190	247
BARTON					21
BATES				141	112
BENTON			293	261	298
BELL COUNTY					729
BOSCH	1,871	1,898	1,686	1,354	1,314
BULLOCK			217	962	1,311

HENRY / RIVES				530	672	1,293
HICKORY					185	195
HOLT					127	309
HOWARD			2,089	2,646	3,683	4,890
HOWELL						36
IRON						313
JACKSON				193	1,361	2,969
JASPER						213
JEFFERSON			212	236	324	512
JOHNSON					556	879
KNOX						266
LACLEDE						140
LAFAYETTE				429	1,990	4,615
LAWRENCE						248
LEWIS					1,065	1,206
LIVINGSTON						2,846



Board of Supervisors.—the ordinary in re-
sults, May, August and November.

County Official Directory.

Jurist Judge.....J. B. Southa
County Judge.....R. B. Prie
Jurist Attorney.....John H. Hays
Deputy Sheriff.....Val. D. Doubl
County Clerk.....Daniel T. Tayler
County Clerk.....John Reynolds
Deputy.....James Dixon
Deputy.....A. D. Eskom
Deputy.....J. J. Grinter
Superintendent of Schools.....J. Miller
Board of Supervisors... Oliver Irwin, L. K.
 Baldwin, A. Mills.

Justices of the Peace:

San Rafael—U. M. Gordon, E. B. Mahon.
 Novato—J. G. Haven.
 San Antonio—W. F. Ramsey, N. Nuck-
 ills.
 Tomales—G. Spaulding, P. Murphy.
 Nicasio—J. S. Crocker.



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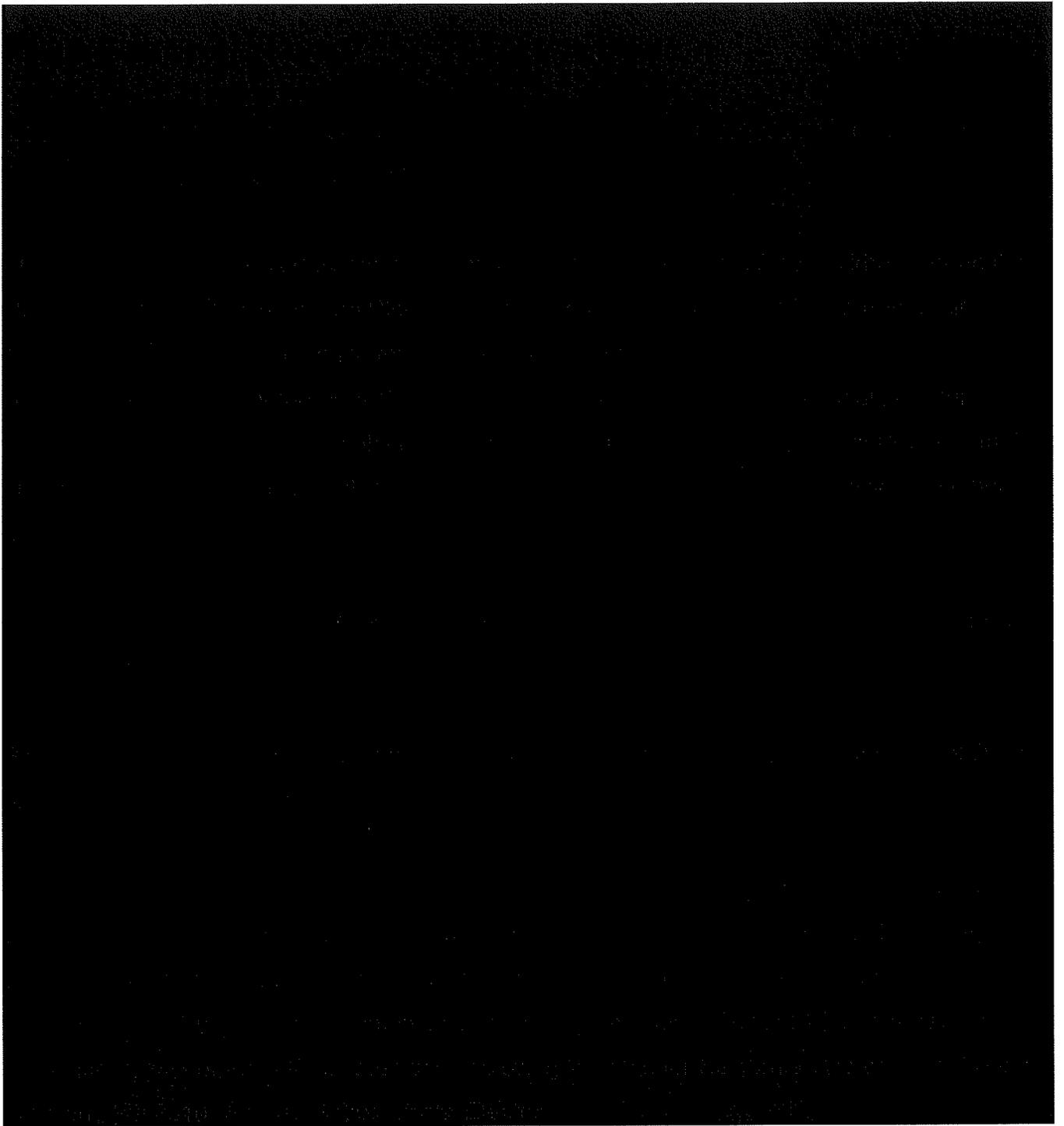
July 11, 1863: The raid of Lee into
Pennsylvania has resulted in one of
the most desperate battles of the
war. His army of 125,000 men, ve-
teran troops—the flower of the bogus
Confederacy, has been completely
whipped and overthrown. His im-
mense trains of wagons for the trans-
portation of plunder from the Yan-
kees, with his artillery, and muni-
tions of war have been captured or
destroyed. The Federal loss in killed
and wounded is estimated at 12,000
—the loss of the rebels at 30,000 to
50,000 in killed, wounded and captur-
ed. With this good news comes the
news of the capture of Vicksburg by
General Grant, when Gen. Pemberton
surrendered the Sebastopol of the
Confederacy. On the same day the
rebel General Price with 18,000 troops
attacked Gen. Prentiss, entrenched
with 5,000 Union troops. Price was
defeated with great loss in killed and
the loss of 700 prisoners. The bogus
Confederacy is about to collapse.
Stonewall Jackson has also been
killed, and also the rebel Gen. Van
Dorn.
Rejoicing at San Rafael—On the
reception of the above war news, our
citizens got up an impromptu cele-
bration. The District Court being
in session, the county was well re-
presented. Governor Chellis, the of-
ficers and guards of San Quentin
joined us and kindly brought over
some big guns, which made the hills
echo. After the firing the people
were entertained with speeches brim-
full of patriotism, from Hon. Alex
Campbell, Judge Southard, and Eli-
sha Cook. All had a rousing good
time. And there was great cheering
for our soldiers and generals.

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and available
of the river, their danger,
momentarily a month more they struggled on,
for nearly a month more they struggled on,
averaging scarcely a mile a day.

"Truckee"

During their wandering they encountered a friendly Indian who acted as their guide and who had a peculiar cry or call, sounding like "Truckee," so they nick-named this Indian "Truckee;" and James Miller gave the river and Lake, near which they were at the time, the same name, which they now bear. Finally the collapse of the horses and the prostration of the children forced them to go into camp not many miles from where the Donner Lake party met its awful fate some years later.



Marnie Glickman Curtis shared a post to Noah Griffin's timeline.
May 15 '16



Marnie Glickman Curtis created a poll

It's time to rename the Dixie School District

Yes
No

10 Voters

Share

No posts yet



Marnie Glickman Curtis shared a post to Kory Person's timeline.
May 15 '16



Marnie Glickman Curtis created a poll

It's time to rename the Dixie School District

Yes
No

10 Voters

Like

Share

0

View 95 posts



Marnie Glickman Curtis shared a post to Kory Person's timeline.
May 15 '16



Marnie Glickman created a poll

It's time to rename the Dixie School District

Yes
No

17 Voters

Share

On May 15, Marnie Glickman Curtis and I were notified via Facebook that our poll to rename Dixie School District had reached over 100 votes. We shared the poll with Matt Kelly and Dukey McEvoy from Maine State Systems Inc. and with Jeff...



Marjorie Glickman Curtis is with Perry Peterson and Noah Griffin at
Coke Schoolhouse

July 1 · San Rafael · 🌐

Thank you to Perry, the docent at the Old Coke Schoolhouse, for a great conversation and tour today. I am grateful to my allies, Noah and Kerry, as we learn more about the origin and impact of the name of the Drake School District. Photo by David Curtis. #TheMayorCommunit





Kerry Peirson shared a post



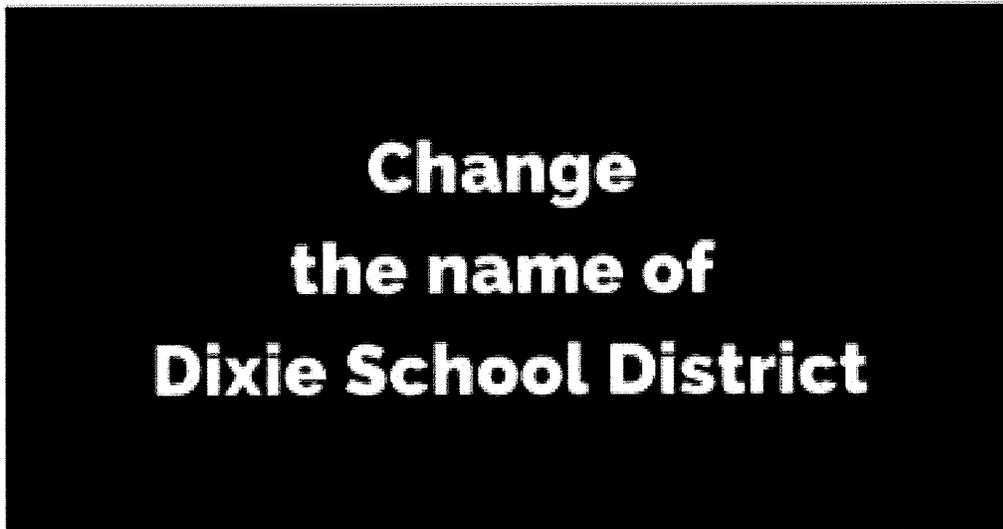
July 29 · 🌐



Sukey Schwartz

July 29

<https://www.changethename.net/>



CHANGETHENAME.NET

Home

It's time to change Dixie School District's name to reflect the district's...



2

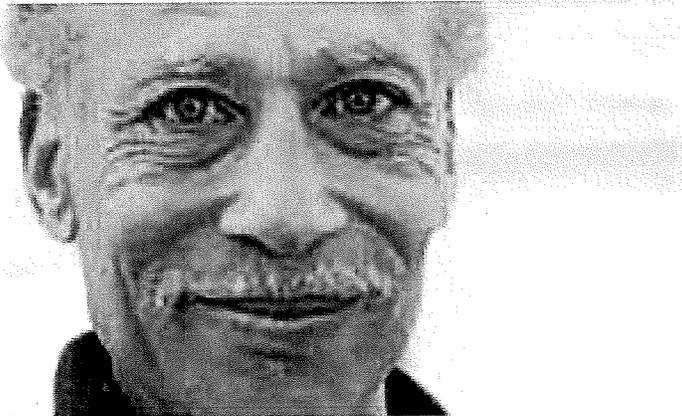
1 Comment · 6 Shares





Jimmy Fishbein: Garaghty silent link — with Kerry Pearson
August 29 at 5:55 PM · 🌐

119



OAKLANDPOST.ORG

Activist Kerry Pearson Blows Whistle on Marin County's Dixie School District - Oakland Post

👍👎🗨️ 15

1 Comment · 10 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

🔗 Share



Marnie Glickman Curtis Sign the petition at www.changehethename.net

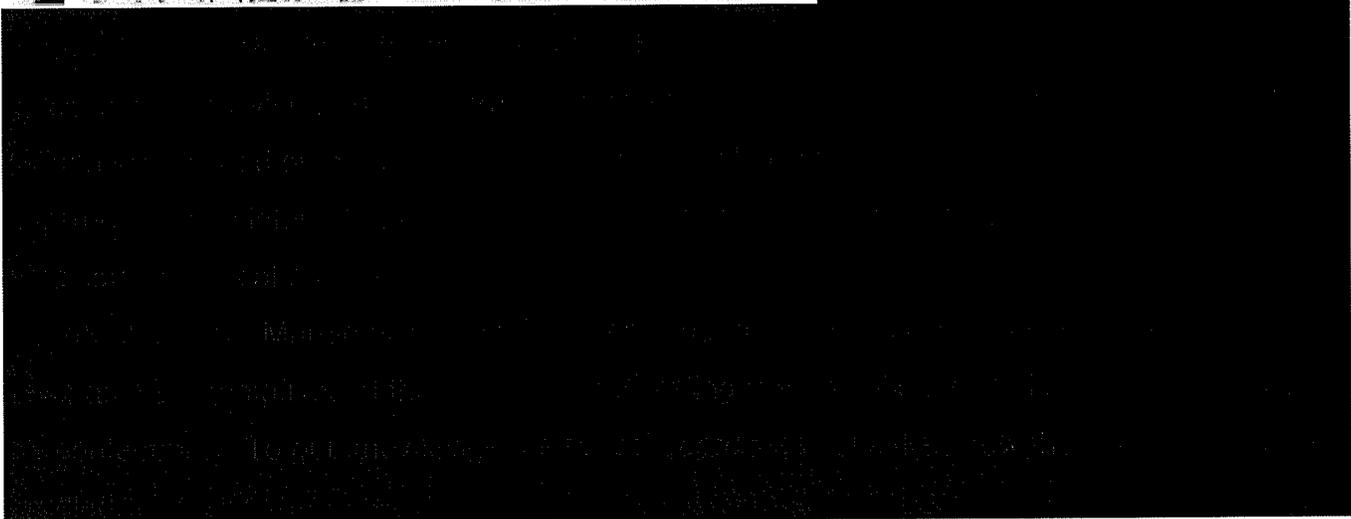


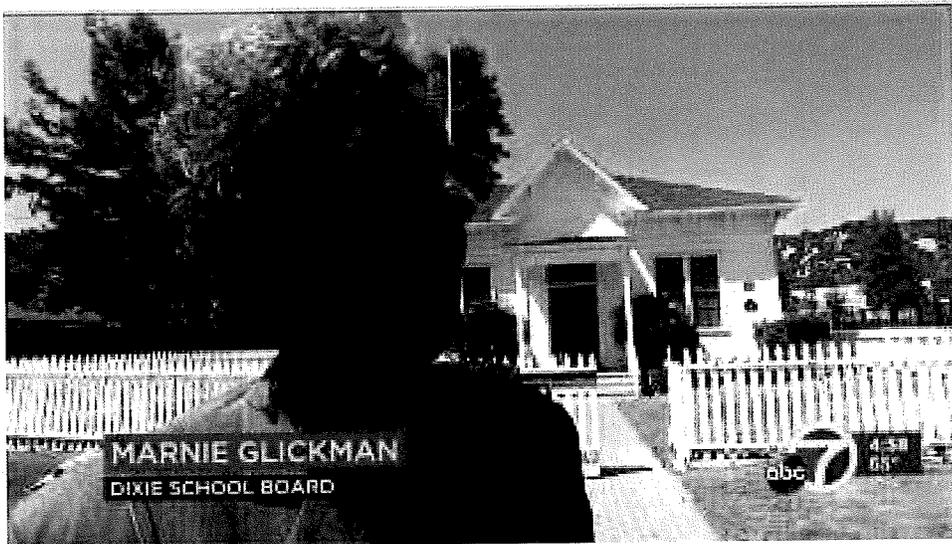
CHANGE THE NAME NET
Home

👍👎🗨️ 15



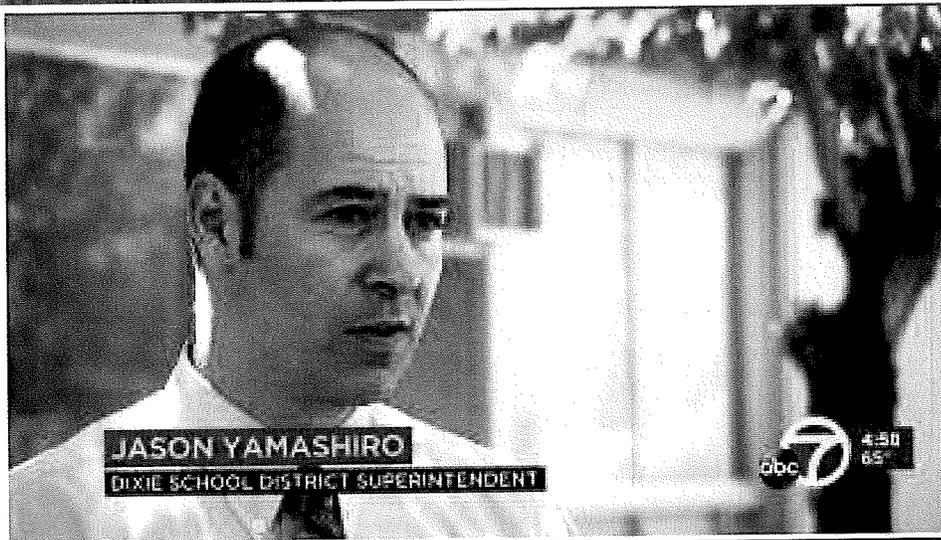
👤 Pamela Meigs replied · 1 Reply





MARNIE GLICKMAN
DIXIE SCHOOL BOARD

abc 7 4:58 PM



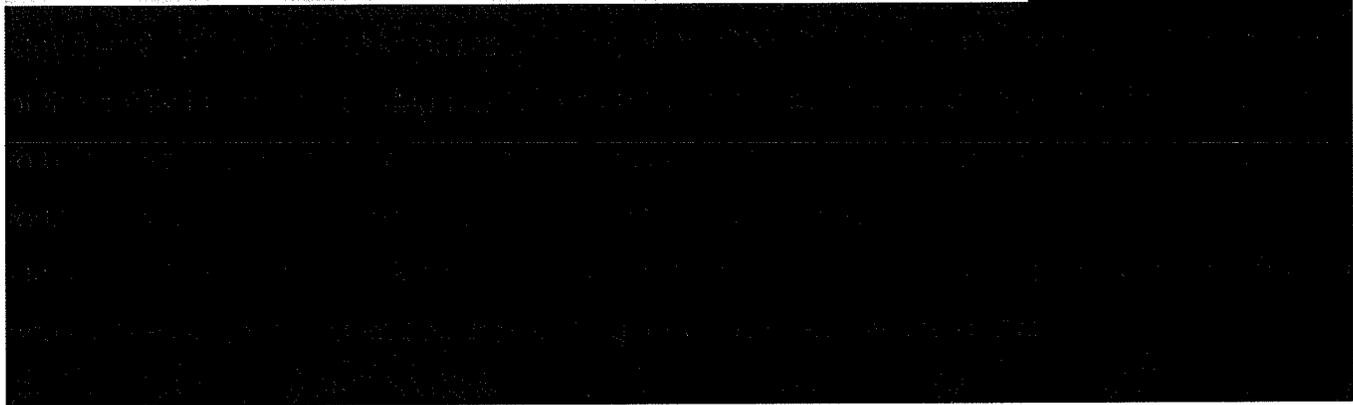
JASON YAMASHIRO
DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

abc 7 4:58 PM



David Curtls @dc_curt Sep 11

@Mamiema speaking at the Mann Human Rights Commission - at Marin County Civic Center



11/15/18

Breklous
Lynn
Martinez

11/15/18

October 15, 2018

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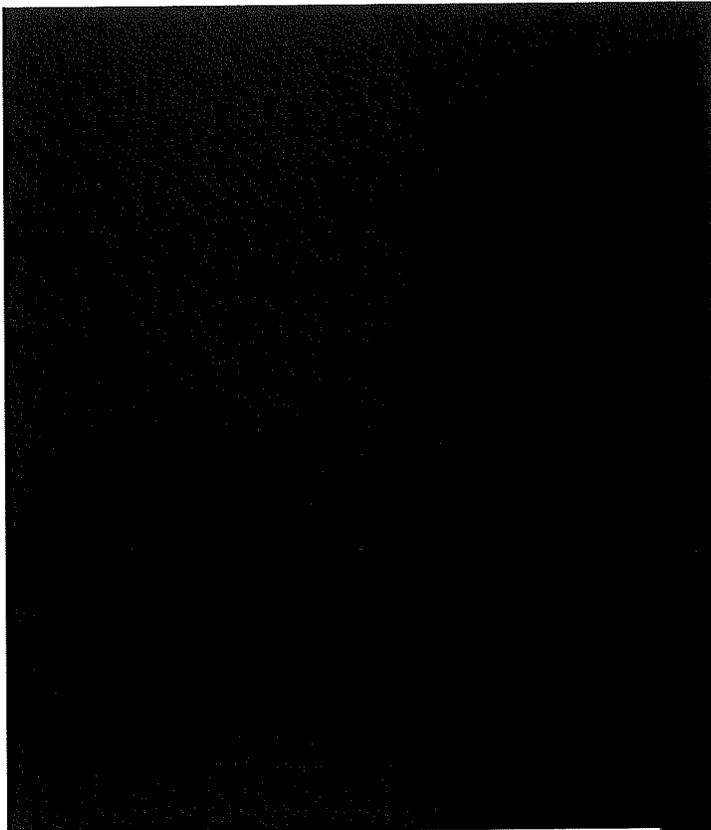
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Nael Shanway and Marisel Martinez
October 15, 2018
Page 2

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Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Breklous
Elizabeth Breklous

Enclosure

It Ain't Over Till It's Over

By Noah Griffin

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The Marin IJ Editorial Board has flatly stated the Trustees should lead the name change. The letters to the editor and op-eds from our supporters have been key in persuading those on the fence or needing cover to declare their support.

Our wave of support continues to grow and momentum shifts our way. This story has national implications as a feature piece and is ripe for a documentary. In many ways, we are trying to save Marin County from itself.

With all the positive news, the name change party and the upcoming dates to present names to the Board and side fundraising efforts, we still need to be mindful of the fact we have not crossed the finish line and will not be on the other side unless and until the name is changed. We have to stay vigilant, stay active and keep applying the pressure.



@marrilem6
Lucas Valley, California



24 likes

marrilem6 Big guns join fray in #Dixie turmoil #Marin #SanRafael
vickigatham The news is great! And I love this picture.



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12/23/2020

Mary Jane Burke

Mann County Superintendent of Schools

superintendent@mcpsd.k12.nc.us | 415.493.5301

Superintendent Burke,

I am writing to you as a parent of a Dixie School District student.

Miss Clark should resign from the Dixie School District based on treason.

She has violated her oath of office on multiple occasions:

1. She participated in both closed session and open session violations of the Brown Act as documented in the recent letters from her attorney by two different district members/Trustees.

She conspired with former Trustee, Scott, and Trustee Hensberger to delay potential efforts to legally change the name through petition, and brought forward a failed vote of a non-agreed item to require a public vote on the issue in her stead. This action does nothing to prevent petitions. She is literally wasting everyone's time.

2. She has blocked for no legitimate reason, Trustee Glickman from having multiple agenda items during her service as a VP.

3. She has held committee meetings in violation of the Brown Act to block the effort to change the name of the district. This is documented in two attorney letters to the district that have been posted to the district website.

4. She has publicly stated (in open session) she intends to block attempts to bring forward petition to change the district name. Petitioning is constitutionally protected.

5. She is incompetent. She instructed staff to send an email double post to invite trustees to what would have been a meeting to discuss subject matter that also would have been a Brown Act violation.

6. Her performance at meetings: she has often barely awake, frequently yawns, and barely maintain focus.

7. She routinely ignores other trustee's requests in open session. She literally acts as if she did

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903

January 26, 2019

Via Email to commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

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

Re: No Need to Change the Dixie Name –
(1) Honor the Previous Decision for a Community Vote;
(2) Even Without a Community Vote, a Better Solution Exists

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to share two thoughts regarding the proposed Dixie name change.

1. Honor the Previous Decision for a Community Vote.

The board has already decided to allow the local citizens to vote on this issue. I would urge the board to deny the recent petitions, so the vote can proceed.

2. Even Without a Community Vote, There Is No Need to Change the Name – If a Problem Truly Exists, There Is a Better Solution.

The analytical framework for this conversation has gotten jumbled in the noise. There are really two questions being asked: (A) Is there a problem with the current name? (B) If so, what is the best solution?

A. In My View, The Name Is Not a Problem that Needs to Be Solved.

Personally, I don't believe there's a problem with the current name. To me, it does not refer to the southern Confederacy and its associated evils. Our family has observed much inclusiveness and kindness at Dixie Elementary and Miller Creek. Our schools put a huge premium on inclusiveness and social/emotional learning.

However, if we assume that "Dixie" is a racist reference and/or makes enough neighbors feel angst that it should be deemed a problem, then what should be done?

B. Even if the Name Is a Problem, a Name Change Is Not the Best Solution.

Everyone has been assuming that changing the name is the only solution to a "name problem." That is not the case.

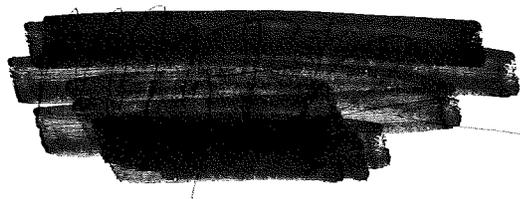
I believe that the best solution is to keep the name, but also to institute a new, formal, ongoing, and continuous education program about the way that people of color have been marginalized for 400+ years in this country; the history in our country that has contributed to this marginalization; the day-to-day things that people can do right now to make our society better and more inclusive, etc.. We could start a social volunteer program where the students participate in an outreach day every year. On the first day of school, every year, one assembly topic could be the different interpretations of the Dixie name and the good/bad associated with those interpretations. We should continue our equity and inclusion committee, and our social-emotional learning programs. The Dixie name could be part of these trainings and conversations. Establishing this type of educational program is exactly within the School Board's purview.

In a lot of ways, our Dixie conversation is like the clamor to remove southern monuments. What should society do? **If we sanitize the past, if we pretend it didn't happen, if we ignore history, then we're doomed to repeat it. Instead, let's shine a light on the good and the bad. Let's make it not just one teachable moment, but many, many teachable moments from Kindergarten through 8th grade.**

It may be helpful to watch this 60 Minutes segment (see link). A professor at the University of Richmond, Julian Hayter, gives his recommendation regarding the many Confederate monuments in Richmond, Virginia. He recommends keeping the monuments but also installing signs that accurately describe the history relating to those individuals. Professor Hayter happens to be black, so he can't be accused of racial insensitivity or white fragility. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-the-history-and-future-of-confederate-monuments/>

For all these reasons, I respectfully request that the Board keep the Dixie name and deny the petitions that have been submitted. If the Board determines that the Dixie name is indeed a problem that needs to be solved, then I would urge the Board to institute the type of educational program described above instead of changing the name.

Very respectfully,

A large, dark, irregularly shaped redaction mark covering the signature area of the letter.