



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change Dixie name

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 6:15 AM

Dear School Board,

I was shocked to hear the name Dixie originated as a nod to Dixieland, a nickname for the Southern Confederate States of America.

This name is not only hurtful it doesn't carry the current values of our community, county or state. In a time where there is so much hate and racism allowed to dominate our lives through media and the offensive onslaught from our current president, it would be honorable and the right thing to do, to change the name and declare, 'Never again!'

Never again on my watch. Never again in our school, in our community, county, state and country. It all starts here. In the hearts and minds of our young people. We are showing them the way.

I know there is some debate about the name but why not make it clear?

Let all our children feel welcome.

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 and how kids can be a part of making our country more just for everyone.

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

Thank you for your attention.

A concerned citizen


2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - We are Dixie, too.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

We are Dixie, too.

2 messages

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 7:02 AM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie Board:

I am in awe at the people from our community that have stepped up to support changing the name of the school district. What started out almost 30 years ago with trepidation from one parent delivering his son to a school named Dixie has turned into a community effort to make things right.

I ask you to recall your most recent board meeting on Martin Luther King's 90 birthday. Over 30 people, most using less than two minutes, told their truths about changing the name. If you want to refresh your memories I have stored most of the videos on my public youtube page at [change the name](#). These residents of the Dixie District and more addressed you. Tni Newhoff, David Newhoff, Tina Mitaine, Teri Bleiweiss, Ruby Sullivan Wilson, Phillip Simon, his daughter Bally, Annie Song-Hill, Alex Stadtner, Carol Nelson, Cliff Gould, Cynthia Kinavy, Wendy Eberhardt, John Bagala, Heidi Merchen. Kiki LaPorta, Krista Alborg, Lisa Doering, Mimi Newton, Nathan Hunt, Patrick Nissim, Patrece Bryan, Lisa Pavlovsky, Joe Palerinni, Bruce Anderson

I can assure that there were at least another 20 people in attendance that night that would have talked about why they wanted the name to change. We are Dixie too. Please hear our voices and change the name

Bruce Anderson
Resident of the Dixie District.

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 7:12 AM

[REDACTED] com>
Cc: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Love it! Thanks for sharing.
[Quoted text hidden]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

We Are Dixie

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 5:46 AM

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

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board:

My name is [REDACTED], I have been living in the Dixie district for over 20 years. Both of my sons attend Dixie schools.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA

2 attachments

 Letter Template_Procedural.docx
17K

 ATT00001.htm
1K

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board:

My name is [REDACTED] I have been living in the Dixie district for over 20 years. Both of my sons attend Dixie schools.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Fwd: Preserve the Dixie School District name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 4:52 AM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

----- Original Message -----

[REDACTED]
To: brad.honsberger@gmail.com, achacko@dixieschooldistrict.org, meganhutchinson24@gmail.com,
brookscnguyen@gmail.com, superintendent@dixieschooldistrict.org, mjburke@marinschools.org
Date: February 3, 2019 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Preserve the Dixie School District name

Dixie Board & Superintendent

I am a 30 year Marin resident, a 16 year Marinwood resident and parent of a child who graduated from Dixie and Miller Creek schools. The academic quality and reputation of the Dixie schools and the district were the driving factor in our decision to move from Santa Venetia and contributed to our child's future success through high school, college and professional employment.

I do not support the time and effort spent to change the district name. The time and energy expended on this subject is a waste of taxpayer money and a distraction from the districts mission to advance the quality and scope of the academic agenda, teaching staff and facilities.

At the most basic level Dixie is a name that has come to represent a desirable, sought out, safe and educationally successful school system in Marin County California for well over 100 years. Anything else is an assumption and in the current environment a movement based on nothing more than a random collection of select assumptions mixed with unsubstantiated hysteria to support a personal story line and agenda.

At best, to change a name is to address an effect and ignore the cause. If a cause exists then attack the cause to effect change. I believe that a fanaticism exists that doesn't understand a problem (I don't say 'the' problem because I cannot confirm that one exists). This lack of understanding frustrates the collective who are firm in our belief that we do not have nor would we ever support an outstanding school system that operates under a banner of hate. Thankfully we have the opposite.

I urge you to put a stop to this behavior and discussion. Do not let it go continue or drive further into the academic principles and operation of the district. Define your mission and pursue it with passion.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]




Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District - petitions to change name of district

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 1:40 AM


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org


Dear Trustees,

I have previously commented. I forgot to mention this. You may have already thought of it.

People commenting on the proposed name change fall into two groups: those living within the district, and those, like me, living outside of the district. I suspect you have no reliable means to distinguish between the two groups without holding an election.

This is an important distinction. People living within the district are your masters. You only represent them. If, hypothetically, you discovered that they wished to change the name, or, alternatively, to keep the existing name, you would be morally obligated to follow their wishes, or else to resign if you felt unable to do this in good conscience. Absent such a showing, you do what you think is best.

People living outside of the district have no such power over you, but that doesn't mean you don't want to hear what they think. If I was doing something wrong, and for some reason was unaware of it, I would rather know what others thought of me than not, even though I would reserve to myself the right to decide what was correct.





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 1:15 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie School District Trustees:

Thank you again for your time and service.

If you had a chance to watch the Super Bowl yesterday, you may have seen the Washington Post commercial, which references "Democracy dies in darkness", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDjfg8YIKHc>

I couldn't help but think of this situation when I saw it. This decision requires research. As a board of trustees, your decisions should be based on what is best for our children, not because some are telling you "It's the right thing to do", based on their emotions. "Dixie" means many things to many people. Dr. Yamashiro, you quoted something similar to that in the Marin IJ.

"Because knowing empowers us. Knowing helps us decide. Knowing keeps us free." (Washington Post Ad)

I reached out to another school that shares our "Dixie" name and they hired an independent research firm to conduct polls and interviews of their faculty, staff, students, community, donors and all alumni to determine if they truly needed to change their name. The data came back overwhelmingly that their "Dixie" school was viewed as having warm welcomes, friendliness and a sense of community. Their school has academic excellence, critical thinking, equity and inclusion, very similar to our own values. That report cost them tens of thousands of \$\$\$.

They made their decision to keep their name based on facts.

One of our country's greatest leaders faced a similar problem. When news reached Washington, D.C. that the Civil War was over, **President Abraham Lincoln addressed**

the crowd as follows: 'I have always thought "Dixie" one of the best tunes I ever heard.

Our adversaries over the way attempted to appropriate it, but I insisted yesterday that

we fairly captured it. . . . I now request the band to favor me with its performance.’ ”

For those who are “demanding” that “Dixie” be stripped from our school district’s title: Do they realize that they are giving a slap in the face to our 16th president, Mr. Lincoln? Or perhaps their hatred – for that’s what it is – is based on prejudice rather than knowledge?

(Quoted from Daily Republic)

Some of the hateful quotes tweeted by board member's husband, Marnie Glickman speak for themselves.

There are screenshots of all of them, not just what was reported by KPIX news.

Please vote no on all 13 petitions, now is not the time without proper research.

Please vote to keep Dixie - Dixie even if with the premise you will:

“Involve the community, parents, students and staff in developing a common vision...”

If at the end of that thorough research, the data suggests a name change, then, and only then should

the name change.

#notlikethis

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:44 AM

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

Dear School Board -

1. THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO BE HEARD AND A VOTE WILL PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH A COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE STANDPOINT.
2. LET'S FOCUS ON TOPICS THAT CAN BE A TANGIBLE HELP TO OUR KIDS.
3. **WHAT DOES DIXIE MEAN TO ME? -** - "Left my heart in the land of Dixie..." There's nothing derogatory in the name "**Dixie**," any more than "**The South**" or "**Southerners**." Doesn't refer to racism, that's just general history. **AND** this "Dixie's" history is from England, and American Indian use!
(They're trying to change my Va. H.S.'s name from Washington-Lee. **Crazy!**)

Thank you,

[REDACTED] 94925



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

District Name Change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:55 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board,

I am writing to lend my **strongest possible support to change the names** of the Dixie School District and Dixie Elementary School. I have felt this way for as long as I've been aware of the district.

Our family has lived in the district for 16 years, and we've lived in the county for 21 years. Both of our children went to Dixie Elementary School, and while our oldest is now in high school, our youngest is still an 8th grader at Miller Creek Middle School.

I'm sure that you've heard all the reasons on both sides of this issue many times over. I'd like to add three personal points to the mix.

First, despite the positive reputation of the name of the district and school, when we were looking to move into the district the names were a *negative* factor for our family. "Dixie" has always conjured images of the slave-owning and Jim Crow South. This connotation was true the first time I heard it and remains for me today. It's also the first thing family members from outside of this area think of when they hear the name. It's an ugly, hateful, sour meaning.

Second, if I was looking to move into the district, I would see it as a *positive* to know that there were people who lived here who were forward-thinking and inclusive enough to consider the feelings and needs of *all* of its members. Changing a name is not hard to do. Conversely, if I was looking at moving here and knew that the district had a chance to change the name and didn't, despite a deep groundswell both within and outside of the district, I'd think twice. I would not be looking in a positive light at a place that was that insular, so privileged, and frankly, so petty as to hold onto name that others found offensive.

Finally, I want to speak as a public school teacher. I've been a teacher for 27 years, the last 21 of which have been in the [REDACTED] School District, eight at the elementary level and 13 at the middle school. No one who wants a name change is challenging the quality or good feelings of the schools in the Dixie School District. I know that it's what goes on *inside* the classrooms and within the boundaries of a school campus that matters. You could change my school's name to Lumber Middle School, and as long as it wasn't offensive, it wouldn't alter how the students performed, or the teachers taught, or the administrators ran the school.

However, a school and district name can inspire students, and it can also make them feel less part of and less heard than they should. What must a student who is offended by the name feel, day in and day out, consciously or not, when they know that the district that they otherwise might love refuses to do something that can be so easy to do as to change a name?

Please, please change the names.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

February 4, 2019

Dear Dixie School Board Trustees,

First we would like to welcome Megan Hutchinson and Brooks Nguyen. We are looking forward to working with you and the veteran board members in the future. The reason for writing is to come forward as a caring and diverse group of parents and staff, for changing the name of the Dixie School District.

As a group, many of us have been quietly following the name change debate, while others have been more vocal. We feel the need to come forward now as we have come to a critical juncture. We are active members on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee which exists in the interest of promoting a more equitable and inclusive culture in our schools. Some of us have been personally affected by racism in our community. The We Are Dixie website claims racism does not exist here. We can tell you that is false. Simply ignoring racism won't make it disappear and the ongoing attempt to negate or minimize our experience is hurtful. Because a thing is not considered offensive by the majority, does not make it inoffensive. The word Dixie's origins are rooted in the confederacy. Regardless of how the Dixie School District got its name, the word Dixie cannot be extricated from its historical meaning.

Not actively working to dismantle the racism that exists right here in our community only serves to marginalize and alienate a portion of our community. If all voices are not acknowledged, how does this benefit us? One of the board goals published on the district website is "academic success for all students." We would argue that social and emotional success leads to academic success. Continuing on the path of inaction is saying to some that they are less than their counterparts.

Changing the name of the school district is not going to fix the problems of racism, or of gender, or socio-economic inequalities but it will signal that the district is willing to take on the tough issues that affect our marginalized and least represented students and families. The district has taken some steps toward these issues through staff training and looking critically at the curriculum choices but more could be done. We are asking you to consider the alternate names that were presented to you by petition. Please work in the interest of equity and inclusion for all.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

11 names



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change Petitions

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 11:09 AM

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

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Dear Dixie School Board President and Board Members,

My wife and I have lived in the Dixie School District for over 50 years. We have two Daughters and a Son-In Law who attended Dixie Schools from Kindergarten thru Junior High. They continued on at Terra Linda High School and all three went on to attend University and graduated (Arizona, Arizona State and University of The Pacific). This attests to the excellent education they received in Dixie District Schools and Terra Linda High School. All three were very active in school activities and have said they were never confronted by anyone in school discussing racism, disparity or any derogatory remarks about the name Dixie.

We were very involved in the Dixie School District, especially while our children were enrolled there. My wife volunteered at Oak View School until its closure, Then volunteered at Lucas Valley, Dixie, Mary Silveria and Miller Creek. At Dixie School she taught a motor development class twice a week. I was Co-Chair of a financial committee, appointed by the Dixie Board to explore the closure of four schools and recommend the best financial options for the closures. We were also very close friends of several Dixie School Board Members (Jerry Russom, Mike Elgie and David Green) and during discussions concerning various school issues, did we ever hear about a problem with the name Dixie School District. I also coached Dixie-Terra Linda Girls softball (now San Rafael Girls Softball). This gave me a great deal of close contacts with both students and parents and never did I hear a bad comment about the word Dixie. The above involvement was from 1973 thru the early 1990's.

The Dixie School District has always been well known In Marin County as one of the best and most desirable. People want to live in the district so their children can attend school there.

Realtors say the Dixie School District has increased home prices in the area. Why all of a sudden did the name Dixie be come undesirable? Only in the past several years have we heard about the name Dixie. Two or three egotistical troublemakers who want notoriety are dividing a community over a word that doesn't have the same connotation in Marin that it does in the Southern U.S.

The Dixie School District elicits a great deal of pride in the community and we feel strongly that the name should not be changed. If we give in to these few of troublemakers it will only serve to encourage them to find some other petty item to create controversy in the community. Please throw out the name change petitions and stick to your original resolution to hold a vote in the Dixie School District Community.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 03



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Live Oak Valley Elementary (LOVE) School District

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 11:09 AM

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

Dear BOT,

My favorite name was a surprise guest to the cookie party!

I really like **Live Oak Valley Elementary** for several reasons.

- non-offensive to native-Americans (as "Miwok" names would be)
- non-offensive to more than half the country (as "Dixie" is)
- representative of our geography (Valley) and flora (Live Oaks)
- and the acronym is "LOVE"

Dumping a name that symbolizes hate for one that spells "LOVE" is a beautiful thing.

What a wonderful opportunity lies before you.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 11:29 AM

[REDACTED]
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Hello Dixie School Board and Administration,

My name is [REDACTED] I was a Dixie Trustee back in the late 80's, early 90's. I've lived in the District since 1976. Both of my children went thru 8th grade at Dixie schools. They received an excellent education.

My wife and I moved into the District primarily due to the reputation for high quality education. We never gave a thought to the name Dixie meaning racial bigotry or racism. Never during our children's time attending the Dixie schools was there every any sense of racism, programs that might suggest racism or use of the name Dixie to encourage racism. It was simply the name of the district and one with a sterling reputation for quality education.

One can ask how far should we go to be "politically correct?" Do we need to stop referring to Dixieland Jazz? How about Dixie Cups? And women named Dixie? A name is what people make of it. It appears that those intent on changing the name of Dixie have caused divisiveness, hatred, name calling and have managed to create a problem with the name that was never there before. One can also wonder at their real reasons?

The Dixie Board last year voted on a resolution to have a vote during the 2020 election to see if the people of the Dixie District want a name change. I personally don't feel the need, but if the votes do, I would not have a problem. Democracy at work. I do resent all of the petitions, outside pressure, and trying to create a racial atmosphere that does not exist here.

I urge you to vote against the petitions and get back to your primary duty of working to provide the best education for our children. I appreciate that it is sometimes not easy with varying pressures. I wish you all the best as you do your work as Dixie Trustees.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Letter Addressing the Dixie School Board

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 11:29 AM

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

401 North Ave #308

San Rafael, CA 94903

February 4, 2019

Dear Dixie School Board,

I respectfully urge you not to change the name of the Dixie School District. This name stood when I attended Mary Silveira Elementary School in the 1970s and has served as a proud moniker throughout the existence of the District. I do not understand why we would bend to the wishes of those who try to focus our attention on issues that do not exist. The idea that our local California community is tied, in any way, to the 1860s southern United States is laughable. I must imagine that you have more important business than tending to the whims of those who are searching some whiff of nefarious intent in our community. Let's focus on educating children and not on those who would try to cast an innocent name as some social justice issue.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - NAME CHANGE



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

NAME CHANGE

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 11:41 AM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear members of the Dixie School District Board,

Thank you for your service to our community and our children. Your dedication to excellence has made us the envy of Northern California. I am writing to submit my comments regarding changing the name of the district. I respectfully ask the board to reaffirm it's decision to put the name change on an advisory ballot accompanied by rigorous analysis of the financial impact of this change on the taxpayers especially.

All the bickering about a possible name change reminds me of the divisive rhetoric coming out of Washington. We are better than that! While there seems to be many differences on the origin of the name Dixie, the school district has a history of educational excellence in an open and welcoming community. We must ALL have a voice to express an opinion.

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

Thank You [REDACTED]

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Dixie name



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 2:59 PM

[REDACTED]
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org, [REDACTED]

Hello,

We have been residents of Dixie for the last 10 years, and I grew up in Marinwood and have always known Dixie to be an inclusive community.

Dixie school district is a fantastic community filled with many wonderful people. We have volunteered countless hours at Dixie Elementary, on field trips, Dixie soccer and baseball teams, and at Miller Creek middle school. Dixie school district is referred to many by the most elite district in Marin County. People flock to Marin because of Dixie school district and its great reputation. We live in a phenomenal area and Dixie has everything to do with the success of our community and our children.

Dixie means different things to many people. For us, it means inclusive and wonderful community. Please do not change the name. The countless hours and money spent is time taken away from our wonderful children.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

To help heal the school district, selecting a new name can be an opportunity to engage communities in creating positive, new narratives

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 2:58 PM

 to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Superintendent Yamashiro and Members of the Board,

To help heal the deep divides in the school district, the process of selecting a new name can be turned into an opportunity to engage concerned communities in creating positive, new narratives.

At the risk of appearing naive or ill-informed, I want to outline a possible path forward, agreeable to a majority of interested parties. I see that every person may be able to access the healing power of love, especially in times of great crises that appear insurmountable. I believe People of good will on all sides of this seemingly intractable issue can find some threads of agreement, but only if the Board creates opportunities for all sides to find agreement, and makes decisions that promote rather than prevent agreement. **Please consider with me: What are the decisive steps to make agreement possible?**

First, the Board can see the writing on the wall. The weight of public opinion now favors a name change. The general public would be agreeable to many new names and is not attached to any name in particular. The general public wants a new name that reflects positive values, begins a new chapter and inspires new narratives. In contrast, the opponents of the name change are attached to one and only one name, which is highly divisive, and is clearly hurtful and hateful to many People. **Is it possible for opponents of change to let go of their attachment to the old name with its negative narratives, and then embrace a new name with positive narratives?**

One brief Community Dialog on February 6 is not nearly enough.

The Community Dialog on February 6 is a welcome attempt to promote healing, but it is not nearly enough to address the deep divides that have developed. On February 6, only 75 minutes is being devoted to a wound that goes back to 1863! **I strongly urge the Board to consider initiating processes of community healing that are significantly more sophisticated, longer in duration, and broader in scope than the event on February 6.** February 6 could be the start of long term healing processes based in deep education & deep dialog. We are at a "teachable moment" that could be fully embraced, we are at a turning point that will define this school district for years and decades to come.

Please do not rush to decide

Please consider slowing down the process of selecting a new name, bringing greater deliberation to the process, and organizing one or two more community events to get input from the broad community before selecting a final name. **Please organize one or two more events that allow for engagement and input by students, parents, teachers and the public.**

Please consider VOTING YES on MULTIPLE new names and then engaging the community to help the Board select from those multiple names. In the interest of helping the Board chart a healing course for the school district, I suggest that the Board can vote YES on multiple new names.

Voting YES on more than one new name is a way to slow down and bring greater deliberation to the selection process. Then the broad community of students, teachers, parents and other parties could be engaged in the process of selecting a new name.

The Board could specifically reach out to opponents of name change and invite their input.

This is perhaps the only way to get significant "buy in" from opponents of the change, the only way that opponents of the change will let go of the old and accept the new.

The goal is to engage the entire School District in new narratives, new stories that can inspire students, teachers, parents and community members going forward.

With Respect, Appreciation and Sincerity,





Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please consider changing the district name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 2:56 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I believe we should change the name of the Dixie School District. I think if we want to consider ourselves an inclusive community, it is imperative that we listen to the people that are under-represented in our district. I know that much ado has been made that the people that want to change the name are from outside of our community. Even if we disregard all of those people, there are people within our community that are uncomfortable with the name. Regardless of the true origin story of the name, we can't separate the word Dixie from its confederate connotations. When I think of the name, I do think of its negative connotations. I can't imagine having to hear it, see it, and explain to my children if I were a black person (or any person of color) in our community.

From the names submitted, I think Miller Creek Elementary School District is the least likely to cause any further controversy.

I hope that we can be an example to the world that the larger population of our community will step up, and speak up, and stand up for the under-represented members.

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Keep the name.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep the name.

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 11:51 AM

[REDACTED]
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Louis Armstrong and the Dixieland 5 say keep the name.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Fwd: yes on name change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:02 PM

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Dixie Board of Trustees,

It's past time to rid ourselves of the deplorable Dixie name. As a predominately white community, we have failed for an embarrassingly long time to address this issue. What might have been the outcome if the school board in Marin City had named its district Dixie? How do you think members of the community would feel? How long do you think it would have taken for members of that community to insist on a name change? How are we different? Why have we allowed this abomination to last for decades?

Frankly, I can't quite understand why anyone would not want our community to shed itself of a painful confederacy symbol. Shame on all of us for allowing the word Dixie to grace a school district that broadcasts its excellence at every turn.

Let's be excellent. Let's change the name.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change The Name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:06 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I support the name change and urge the board to find a new name for our excellent school district. While the name Dixie doesn't strike a chord with me personally, it does offend people of color in our community. The first name change was suggested in 1997 and in the last 22 years the word Dixie has been tolerated by those who find it offensive. It's time to make a compromise and support our community members as a whole. Every relationship needs compromise to work, as does a community. Times are changing and African Americans in our community are speaking up and saying they are tired of tolerating the name that has ties to the confederacy, slavery and exclusion. This is not a trivial request. Not taking action is telling a portion of our community that they don't count. Changing the name won't effect the home prices, the education our children receive, or the legacy of that quality education. It will show that we care about progress and the people who live in our community and that we don't need to be selfish and hold onto a name that offends people. Now is the time to stop tolerating an inadequate name and listen to those who are offended by it, even if you are not personally offended by the name. It's time to do the right thing and find a new name for our fantastic school district.

I like Miller Creek School District as a new name.

Parent of students attending Miller Creek Middle School



1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:27 PM

Dear Board Members.

I have lived in Upper Lucas Valley – the heart of the Dixie School District – for 10 years and have grown to recognize value of this school in spite of being single and without kids.

This Dixie School is well-known as a solid foundational school for the first years of a child's education. While the idea of changing its name might make sense, it must be considered by the district residents at large, not a small group of newly-elected Board members. I have watched the drama unfold as a resident of the district and see how the political motivations of a few have attracted media and other attention to an issue that requires careful consideration by its local residents.

I support keeping the name – **Dixie.**

I am in favor of keeping the name and allowing the Board get back to its important work of continuing to bring added value to the students, faculty and staff of the school.

Thank you for your consideration.

[illegible]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

School District Name Change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:29 PM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <stazien@yahoo.com>
to: "commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org" <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Hello School Board,

I am writing to express my support of changing the name of our school district. My top two name choices are: Lucas Valley & Miller Creek Elementary School District.

This is an opportunity to teach our kids that sensitivity to people is not based on a price tag but doing what is right. While the name "Dixie" might not be an issue for the majority of people in our community, it does not mean that the minority that feel offended should not have an equal voice and be respected. We teach our kids to be up-standers for those who are being bullied, marginalized and mistreated - we need to lead by example by changing the name!

Cost should never be a determining factor when righting a social injustice. Since the Marin Community Foundation has agreed to cover the administrative costs for the name change, all the more reason to proceed now vs. determining the outcome via a local advisory vote. I stand with Mary Jane Burke, Jared Huffman, Mike McGuire, Garry Phillips, Thomas Peter and Noah Griffin for the name change.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for 14 years
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:38 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

I am writing this note today to express my feelings on changing the name. I have lived here for 34 years and my children went to dixie schools. I feel it is irresponsible for change the name group to make board members that have no experience under their belt to make such a big decision for our community. I think it is only right to NOT expect new board members to make this change. This will effect a lot of people and we all deserve the right to help with the decision. The community needs to be heard and a vote will provide the board with a comprehensive and accurate standpoint.

Thank you

1000 Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, Ca 94901



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Keep the Dixie name for our school district

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:48 PM

[REDACTED]
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Please, do **NOT** change the name of our excellent school district!

We moved from Mill Valley to Terra Linda in December 1991 when our son was 4 years old - 27 years ago. Our Mill Valley realtor suggested this area because of the superb schools. I already had heard of Dixie and knew of its excellent reputation back then and so did all our friends. I remember when I mentioned that my son was at Dixie, everyone would "nod" their heads and agree that the District was one of the best in Marin County.

The name recognition of **DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT** was huge back then and still is now.

I believe way too much time and energy has been wasted on this "cause" to change the name. Think of the waste of money that would be spent doing so! And none of it would benefit any child in the district! This money (what little there is) needs to stay where it is - for books and materials for our students, school nurses, sports and music programs, teachers and administrative staff.

I certainly believe, as a senior citizen, that things change, usually for the better, but this change, to take away the name of our favorite school district does not help our children and is just wrong!

PLEASE, KEEP THE DIXIE NAME

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:54 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Dear Board Members

Dear Board Members

My husband and I have lived in the Dixie School District 40 years in 3 different homes. Our three daughters attended Dixie Schools and went on to UC Berkeley, San Diego State and UC Santa Barbara because of quality instruction K-12 in Dixie. Dixie is synonymous with quality education and we feel the name Dixie should remain in order to continue the name recognition of its past.

Thank you to the residents of this community to vote on any attempt to change the name. New to the

We also feel it should be up to the residents of this community to vote on any attempt to change the name. New to the district residents should not railroad a change through just because they need a cause, and an unnecessary one at that. Tradition has meaning

Respectfully,

San Rafael CA 94903

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution smartphone



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

No Need to Change Name: a Better Solution Exists

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 8:55 AM

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

Good morning,

I already emailed the attached letter on January 26, 2019. However, I'm sending it again, because I've seen a confusing instruction online that says letters/emails will be disregarded if anyone is copied on the "cc" line. In my previous submittal, I did copy Jason Yamashiro, as the Superintendent of the Dixie School District, on my email.

If my previous email was accepted, please disregard this one. If my previous email was rejected as a result of my cc to Jason Yamashiro, please accept this one instead.

Thank you for all your hard work on this difficult issue.

Very respectfully,

[REDACTED]



2019.01.26 Letter to Dixie School Board re Name Change (signed).pdf
240K



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

No Need for Name Change: Dixie

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 2:59 PM

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

Dear Dixie School Board Members:

My name is [REDACTED] and I attended both Miller Creek and Terra Linda High School. When I first moved to Lucas Valley in the mid 1970's I used to catch the school bus in front of Dixie Elementary school every morning for our ride to Miller Creek, and had many friends play soccer and softball in the Dixie Leagues. My younger brother also attended Dixie Elementary & Miller Creek many years later, and my step-father has previously served on the Dixie School Board.

Growing up, we never questioned the origin of the name Dixie, nor have we as adults. I think then we all just assumed it was named for a girl or teacher, but it was never associated with the south or the confederacy, or any negative connotations in our minds.

I've known several girls in my lifetime, specifically in Marin County, named Dixie. I firmly believe it was an honor to name the original school house after Don Timoteo's daughter Dixie, or after the Miwok Indian, Mary Dixie. To paint the name Dixie as somehow being racist or offensive is just ridiculous. The name Dixie is a girl's name of Latin origin meaning 'tenth'. Perhaps you are not aware of Dixie Garr, a well known woman of color and woman of tech, a motivational speaker, an Engineer and former VP of Cisco Systems. Should she be made to feel ashamed of her name? I certainly think not!

I'm aware of many companies who use the name Dixie, as well as a State College and National Park. Furthermore, I completely disagree that the name holds any racial overtones towards the Confederacy. I think we all know it is also a reference to the southern states of the U.S. but NOT the confederacy. Folks in the south still refer to that area as Dixie, but not in an offensive way, but as a simplified way of life, complete with manners, and trust in God and good things like talking to your neighbors out on the porch etc.

The Dixie School District community has always been a very inclusive and welcoming community since I was a student there in the 70s/80s. I recall having quite a few friends of color and other nationalities in our classes, and they were extremely popular and accepted by all. Racism was absolutely non-existent in our community, then and now! We are/were proud to attend the fine schools in the idyllic communities of Marinwood, Lucas Valley & Terra Linda. I cannot think of better place to grow up or raise children!

I'm outraged by one board member's divisive agenda and subsequent actions, and her husband's extremely offensive comments, along with the outside activists' political agenda and media campaign towards those in the Dixie community who disagree with their Change the Name smear campaign. Their words and actions have created a hostile, polarizing and hateful division within this school district, where there never was before, and is not only shameful but harmful to the children.

I kindly request the board get back to fully focusing on the business of looking after the best interests of the children in this district, and stop the false and misleading accusations of any association or symbols to the confederacy! If the Dixie School community at large still feels the need for an alternate name, then let the community decide for themselves in a public, democratic vote as it is not up to the board to decide,

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - No Need for Name Change: Dixie

especially the two new board members. They have more important business to attend to concerning the children.

Respectfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Re: Dixie School District Name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 2:58 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

2/4/19

Dear School Board Trustees:

The Dixie name evokes nostalgia and myth. When my husband, Clifford Gould, and I bought our house in 2002, we were informed that the celebrated, renowned, coveted name of "Dixie" made our home worth more than one with a more pedestrian name like Tam Union (pun intended.)

I was happy to find a beautiful home with a nice backyard, that was affordable at the time. But the myth, to me, brought cognitive dissonance. When I was told that a school, and a school district, in Northern California, carried the name Dixie, I was shocked.

I grew up in the South. I spent 28 years in Texas. I sang "Dixie" at pep assemblies and thought nothing of it - it was just a fun, upbeat song. Years later, I came to understand the meaning of "In Dixie land I'll take my stand - to live and die in Dixie." It was a paean to the Old South, the Confederate South, by those still living in its extension, the Jim Crow South; enjoying the benefits of well-maintained bathrooms, drinking fountains, even hospital rooms reserved only for Whites.

I'm sure there are others who are even now as naive, as oblivious, as untouched by the meaning, as I was as a child. That is not to call them racists.

However, among those who even now claim that the Dixie name is harmless, it's benign, it's named after a girl, etc. etc., when informed that there is no historical record supporting that alternative history, and there is sufficient evidence that the name in fact refers to and honors the Confederate States of America, they fall back on nostalgia, money, and the myth of the name.

Nostalgia: Factually, there is no magic conferred by the name "Dixie" which makes the teaching illustrious and the students brilliant, athletic and successful. The school district will continue to thrive under any name, as long as its parents, teachers and board maintain their current commitment to excellence. As Shakespeare said, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

Myth: The so-called "Mary Dixie" alternative history holds no water. There has never been any evidence connecting *that* Dixie - a 34-year-old woman in another county with no connection to Marin - with the Dixie that James Miller explicitly honored when creating a school for his children.

Money: The only serious harm which anyone can claim from changing the name is one of cost. Allocation of funds is an important consideration, but we should all contemplate, whenever we make decisions, the implications of choosing commerce over compassion. But in any event, the cost factor has been overcome. There are more than adequate private funds that have been promised if a new name were chosen.

The benefits which accrue to changing the name include one, mitigating harm. The harm is that many whose associations with the name recall a place and time in which thousands fought to keep the rights and privileges of owning other people - which included the right to overwork, to starve, to imprison, to torture, to

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Re: Dixie School District Name

rape, and even to kill those owned - may suffer when seated in a house which recalls, honors and glorifies that place. Not only those children who are the descendants of slaves, but other children, and other homeowners, who are pained and ashamed when asked to associate themselves with that name. Who recognize that we are still dealing with the legacy of slavery.

Another benefit of a new name is that a neutral, appealing, delightful one could be chosen which would reflect current life and enhance the reputation of a district that is demonstrably excellent. I am in favor of Skywalker School District. I realize that there could be copyright issues, which would require discussion with the holder. When I went to the San Rafael Christmas Lighted Boat Parade, standing on the shore with other families, I was taken by the many children who held up light swords and yelled, "May the Force be with You!"

We do not live in a vacuum. It's time to embrace compassion over commerce. To recognize history over hype. To step up to the plate and do the right thing. May the force be with you.

Thank you.

Morrison Gould, homeowner/ taxpayer



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

For your consideration

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 2:57 PM

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

Dear Trustees,

Thanks so much for your service to our community. I know you all care deeply about our community and our schools and are probably unnerved by the big decision looming before you. I know it has taken energy, time, and if you are like me, maybe some sleep. I just felt like sharing something with you about my own life and and experience. I grew up in Los Angeles County. My mother, a dark skinned Mexican woman met my father at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico, where he was studying Spanish.

The home I grew up in was multi-lingual and multi cultural. We had Mexican family members and Jewish family members at our gatherings. We had calls on special occasions to my "Uncle" David in Nairobi, Kenya. Years earlier, he came to the U.S. to study through his university for one year, when my father was a senior in high school. My grandparents were his host parents. The situation worked out so well, he stayed for 6 years. My early childhood was filled with drop in visits from David's friends from his days in the Black Student Union.

Meanwhile, the school I attended was about 90% white. All my teachers were white, all my friends were white. I never thought I was that different until one day a friend met my mother for the first time and in a very disappointed/surprised tone she asked in a whisper, "Oh, she's Mexican?" Then came the shame, and the hurt. I was twelve and blessed not to have known that feeling before then. I wish I could say it was the last time but no, I became hyper aware of the way my family members were treated by neighbors, school employees, strangers all based on our varying shades or accents. I could fill pages....

Fast forward a few decades and I find myself shopping for a home in Marin. My husband and I had our hearts set on San Rafael for varying reasons, the cost was less than other Marin towns, abundant sunshine, and great schools. The first realtor I worked with seemed delightful until she told me we had to get a home in The Dixie School District and to only entertain looking at homes in other San Rafael neighborhoods if I was comfortable sending my kids to school with Mexicans. "Mexican" being uttered in a whisper. The shame and the hurt bubbling up, I excused myself and never spoke to her again. No explanations, just cut the cord. We suspended our home search and rented in San Francisco for a few years.

Marin kept calling, we really wanted to be near trails, West Marin Beaches, and wildlife. I convinced myself that realtor represented a very small faction of the population. We started looking again and found a home in the Dixie School District. This time I was a little more cautious. The name Dixie seemed odd enough for me to ask why it was named so. I don't remember if it was our new realtor or a friend but the answer was something along the lines of "the founder named it after his (insert animal)". I think it was a horse or a dog, but maybe a daughter, not important. We entered escrow thrilled we were leaving the city and my kids would be attending Vallecito with it's excellent reputation.

I took them the kids to the office to register them for school, which was starting in less than two weeks. Bad news, one of their grades was impacted. Don't remember which one but I was told we would have to go to Dixie Elementary. I immediately called my realtor and told her we were going to back out. Did the name Dixie hurt me, not really but the name was enough to give me pause. My realtor worked her magic and we were allowed to get both kids into Vallecito after all.

A couple of years ago we were invited to a house in Stinson Beach. Old friends of mine from Los Angeles who now reside in Seattle, were visiting their Marin relatives. There was a large group of kids and unlimited sugar, freedom, and those beach winds. A perfect storm and they were up to no good. All of them got into trouble, mine included. The relative and home owner of my friend was furious and he took it out on my son. My son who is darker skinned than I am, bore the brunt of his anger, when in fact he was causing less trouble than the rest. I was not witness to this by my friend who is an educator was. She was sure he was singled out due to skin color. Luckily my son was oblivious to it but I know he won't always be. Again the hurt...

Now I have kids, I want to protect them. I worry about all kids who are underrepresented. I started attending the Equity and Inclusion meetings at Vallecito because I noticed a huge difference in how this school district confronts inequality compared to the San Francisco Unified School District where we started. Yes we have excellent teachers, excellent test scores, but there is an important piece missing.

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - For your consideration

Septemeber 2018: I hear a story on the news regarding the name change. I listen, I investigate, I look at the Dixie Schoolhouse webpage. I read, the history of the name is right there. I had been duped, maybe not intentionally but there was an alternate story regarding the naming of the district. Then the signs came. "Keep Dixie, Dixie" ; those feelings again bubbling up stronger than before. Now the name hurts. That was my call to get involved. If people can not see how that is intimidating, hurtful, and insensitive, we have a really long way to go. We need a name change, we need more equity work in the schools, the community needs to get educated.

As elected officials you can only do so much but you do have the power to right a wrong. Please consider changing the name.

Respectfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Letter From A Concerned District Parent & Homeowner - Save the Name

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 2:51 PM

Dixie Parent <dixiedistrictparent@gmail.com>
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

[Note: After careful consideration I am sending this anonymously, as I do not want negative attention surrounding this issue directed at myself, my child, or my family's local business. I welcome you to respond to me at this email address if you would like to follow up with me personally to verify my identity, but I will not be sharing it publicly. I will also submit this letter through the anonymous web form, in case this emailed version is rejected for not including my identity.]

Dear Board Members,

I would like to start by thanking you for your dedication to the students of the Dixie District, and I realize the district name issue is not something you may have expected to be dealing with when entering your positions. It is unfortunate that you have been burdened with this, and I hope you are able to return all of your focus to matters we can all agree will benefit our students.

Before sharing my input on the name issue, I will provide some personal background, as I have heard it may help you in weighing the value of incoming comments.

I am a Marin County native. My family came to San Francisco in the 1840s. We have been in San Rafael since the early 1950s, owning and operating businesses in San Rafael ever since then and to present day. **I have been a parent, homeowner and voter in the Dixie District going on 12 years.** My child enjoyed 9 years in the Dixie District Schools. I am fair minded and free thinking in my approach to local politics; I voted for some of you. I volunteer in the school setting and community at large. For what it may be worth, I am close friends with individuals of varying color, race, ethnicity, religious background and political affiliation - There are multiple bi-racial relationships in my immediate family. I care immensely for the well-being of our community - This is my home, and may very likely be the home of future generations within my family.

I have done my due diligence and read through all statements of those on either side of this issue, as I do not believe my input would be as credible without first doing so. I have kept an open mind, and applied critical thinking in asking myself tough questions about the value of each point made. I understand the importance of considering complex factors at play on any given social issue. After much consideration, I cannot conclude that changing the current name is justified, and in fact I believe that doing so may actually have negative and unintended dangerous implications.

To preface my position, I will first say that **not once in my life, specifically during the time my child spent in the Dixie Schools, had I ever heard a single negative statement made about the Dixie name from any one in my circle, whether it be from neighbors, other district parents, or business owners in the community.** I have, however, heard countless positive associations made with the name; it has been held up as a symbol of community pride, synonymous with excellence. I will also state that I am not against change in general so long as that change is proven to be beneficial. In this case, I believe change sends the wrong message and is fundamentally damaging, and I will attempt to share my reasoning going forward.

There are several reasons those who support keeping the name believe in their case. For me it comes down to **one** important matter: I do not want my child or future generations growing up in a 'bubble wrapped' society. Kindness, acceptance, tolerance -- These are all very important values to embody. The schools within the Dixie District have a beautiful approach to upholding such values through their monthly Life Skill lessons. However, we cannot expect our children to be resilient, self-sufficient, integrity driven members of society (i.e. using these previously learned Life Skills) if we grown ups protect them from "life" in general. Histrionic knee-jerk politics & political correctness have taken on a new life, especially with the advent of social media, and we need to honestly assess the societal consequences in allowing it to continue at the rate it currently does.

The idea of changing the Dixie name may on its surface appear to be a 'fix' for some, but the question then becomes, **WHERE DOES IT END, and at what cost?** Russian River? Indian Valley Road? How many landmarks have the word Devil in them? Death Valley? White Hill Middle School? Miller Creek Middle School, for that matter, considering the controversy surrounding Mr. Miller's alleged political leanings? Could I suggest, perhaps, that Ms. Glickman's name might be deemed offensive to some, in that it includes the word "man" and may promote 'toxic masculinity', which seems to be a

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Letter From A Concerned District Parent & Homeowner - Save the Name

new "issue" facing us today? To propose a name change to any of these may seem absurd, but then again, we are approaching new levels of absurdity with our undying need to 'safe space' the world around us.

There are endless examples in this country of names tied to streets, towns, monuments, businesses, etc. which could in effect be considered 'offensive' to anyone choosing to perceive them as such. At what point does the bubble wrap we are applying end up insulating us from actually living, feeling, experiencing life and sharing our actual values without having them forced upon us? **At what point is freedom of thought replaced with mandated morality?** At what point is our energy squandered on these futile 'fixes' when it should be spent in areas of actual, measurable value. We are teetering on the edge of a very slippery slope here, and changing the name only fuels the illogical notion that re-labeling the world around us will create a utopia where we are free from hardship or pain. The truth is that itch will never be fully scratched for proponents of movements like those wanting to change the name - There will always be something to single out, there will always be a new business or community to upturn.

The school district name may or may not have ties to the Confederate South. However, the word Dixie itself with regard to the South literally represents a **geographical territory, not a specific ideology**. Assigning it greater meaning in fact only perpetuates the idea that stereotyping is acceptable. Aren't we supposed to be teaching our kids not to stereotype? Our kids are literally being taught today to not assume genders, but with a name change to their district we would in effect be teaching them to assume all things South are hateful. Are there citizens from the South who would take offense at the suggestion that their background is offensive? Does the band "The Dixie Chicks" (which is comprised of self-proclaimed progressives) need to change their name, which is confirmed to be based on a song about Dixieland? Wouldn't validating the name change crowd only further perpetuate the idea that all things "South" are bad? How is this promoting "unity"?

Those that I have talked to who support changing the name claim that they don't like the word Dixie because it is connected to, verbatim, "the racist South" - They have simplified it to that one notion, which directly infers that an entire area of our nation was or still is racist. Ideas repeated often enough end up believed, and the honest facts become skewed. Were racism and slavery a very real and ugly period in our nation's history (and the history of many other areas of the world)? Yes. Are there still racists today? Yes. Will changing our school district name reverse any of those facts? No.

There are over 13 million Google results when searching the term "political correctness gone too far" - The backlash is very real, and our community's outrage about this unnecessary effort to change the Dixie name is only a microcosm of a much larger frustration Americans are facing. **It is time we reclaim common sense and own our responsibility as parents, teachers and community leaders to instill in our children the proper values without the heavy-handed and patronizing efforts of those wanting to parent all of us.**

Those wanting the name change believe they are righteous in their mission, but they are in fact proposing a very superficial "fix" to a very complex issue, at a tremendous cost to the community, and with ripple effects which impact society at large. Our community has gone through enough with regard to this issue. Let us move on.

This is a very difficult issue to face, and I sincerely hope your time, energy, and budget may soon be re-focused on matters that directly impact every student in the district.

Thank you for your time, and for all that you do. I wish for each of you a smoother path going forward once this matter is resolved.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Dixie District Parent & Homeowner



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Letter in support of name change

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 1:47 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

February 4, 2019

Dixie School Board

Honorable Members of Dixie School Board and Superintendent

Re: Changing District Name:

As a 17 year resident of the Dixie School District I am requesting that you vote to change the name of the District.

The connotative meaning of the word Dixie as attached to the District startled me when I first moved here and learned the name. What? Here? Dixie? Makes no sense.

"Dixie" refers to the Confederate States of America and their taking North and South into a bloody war in order to maintain their slaveholding "rights." Those included, of course, the "right" to own human beings and thus rendering them sub-human as personal property. Along with that came the "right" to abuse, rape, hang and forbid your human property from learning to read and write.

In other words it stands as opposite to the function and purposes of schools. To educate, not just in the 3 Rs but in history, civics and the values of our Democracy in which the stated aspirational fundamental is that "All men are created equal."

The Confederacy aka Dixie stood for the opposite. All men are not "men" and some are sub-human brutes.

There are folks in this Community who have relied on distractions such as there are paper cups that are Dixie and a brand/offshoot of New Orleans traditional jazz and Dix, meaning the number ten in French. They also count the number of people who are or have been named Dixie. "Do you want to outlaw all of those?" they argue. They claim that for one to point out the historical meaning and evil connotations of the word Dixie is the exact equivalent of calling them racist and of dishonoring the fine, award winning District.

The District is distinguished because of the quality of the teachers, administrators and how that has benefited the learning of the students.

Not because of, but in spite of the name.

2/4/2019

Dixie School District Mail - Letter in support of name change

To African-American students, other students of color, and many other students, the name casts a dark cloud and ignores an ugly history that they and all of us should learn to change.

Thank you for consideration of this important issue.

[REDACTED]

NAME CHOICE

Of the nominated choices I vote for Skywalker. It taps into a very positive moral, enlightened myth of Good over Evil. All kids of this and future generations know about The Force and the goodness and enlightenment of Luke Skywalker. It excites kids would ignites pride in them.

It's a shame that Las Gallinas. It is non-controversial. It is connected geographically and historically to the District.



[REDACTED]

FW: Comment on petitions

1 message

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 6:25 PM

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:44 PM
To: 'commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.com' <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.com>
Subject: Comment on petitions

I am writing to respectfully ask the board to honor the 4-1 vote of the previous board to place an advisory measure on the 2020 election ballot if financially feasible.

It is my hope that the board votes against the names submitted on the 15 person petitions. A law that allows for numerous petitions of only 15 voters to be given such credence feels archaic and disrespectful to the valuable time of board members and district employees.

The issue of changing or keeping the name of the district deserves careful thought. But there are so many other important issues that directly affect students and staff that should take precedent but have sadly taken a back seat due to the name change issue.

I believe that most residents were and are willing to listen to both sides but the scripted manner in which our community and district have purposely been portrayed has caused many to question the true motives of some (but obviously not all) of the name change proponents. Although an advisory vote will not solve the issue, it can provide an indication of how the entire community feels as opposed to 15 petitioners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903



[REDACTED]

Fwd: Comment on petitions

1 message

[REDACTED]

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 6:14 PM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: February 4, 2019 at 1:40:49 PM PST
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.com
Subject: Comment on petitions

I am writing to respectfully ask the board to honor the 4-1 vote of the previous board to place an advisory measure on the 2020 election ballot if financially feasible.

It is my hope that the board votes against the names submitted on the 15 person petitions. A law that allows for numerous petitions of only 15 voters to be given such credence feels archaic and disrespectful to the valuable time of board members and district employees.

The issue of changing or keeping the name of the district deserves careful thought. But there are so many other important issues that directly affect students and staff that should take precedent but have sadly taken a back seat due to the name change issue.

I believe that most residents were and are willing to listen to both sides but the scripted manner in which our community and district have purposely been portrayed has caused many to question the true motives of some (but obviously not all) of the name change proponents. Although an advisory vote will not solve the issue, it can provide an indication of how the entire community feels as opposed to 15 petitioners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Upcoming Name Change Vote

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 3:10 PM

Dear Dixie School District Board Members:

Regarding the pending vote on 4/12, we ask you to vote NO on any of the names petitioned for change and allow the community to be heard.

We are particularly dissatisfied that through this process the meaning of "Dixie School District" - formerly representing academic excellence and inclusion - has now become synonymous with racism and has fractured our community. Voting yes condones the divisive and polarizing elements of this debate.

Also, we ask that the Board please focus your time/energy/resources back on delivering tangible value to our students - for example enhancing classroom technology, improving infrastructure and STEM offerings so our students are better prepared to succeed in the future.

Again, we respectfully request that you allow the community to be heard before making a decision on the district name change. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
(speaking as private citizens and concerned parents)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Both property owners and residents in the Dixie School District for the past 11 years.



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Please Allow the Community to Vote

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 3:13 PM

All,
While there will be always be for and against reasons to change the name of any school district, I implore you to allow the residents of the Dixie school district to vote on this matter. Allowing outside influences to govern what happens in our community is a disgrace. Remember that you represent all of the people in the school district and they should have a chance to decide. Changing the name without a community vote will show our children, our neighbors, and the those outside of our neighborhood that we don't respect what voters want, that we will allow name calling, foot stomping and incendiary remarks to decide for us what should happen in our community.

Regards,

[REDACTED]