

Submissions  
From  
Website  
Form

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"We live in hypersensitive times it seems. People are not able to be their natural selves. Men can't flirt. Adults can no longer discipline children, racial jokes are taken too personally and well no one seems to have a sense of humor. However, upon closer inspection, the view is clear: The balance of power is shifting. What was once the standard for master and subject is no longer tolerable. This may be an uncomfortable transition for some, but it is nonetheless necessary as we come to grips with the painful realities of our history. As an African-American woman reviewing our shared history, I am sobered by my associates who want to hold on to the legacy of Dixie in Marin. Our nation once split by northern states and Dixie land should remain a past worthy of examination and study, but not as a legacy for our children to inherit. Portuguese immigrants named this land area, Terra Linda, which means. "Beautiful Country" or "Lovely Spot." And it truly is that. The land in this area is indeed worth preserving and a beautiful name to pass on. So, I cast my vote for the new name to be: The Terra Linda School District. Let's replace ugliness with beauty. Thank you.",

---

"2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"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,

  
San Rafael",

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

  
"Please change the name. I urge the board to change the name. Tradition is no excuse to inflict pain and suffering on others. Thanks.",

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

"Concerned Dixie District Parent & Homeowner",

"[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 have also submitted this as a formal letter to the [commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org](mailto:commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org) email address.]

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 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 it 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

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,,

"School Board,

Please accept this vote IN FAVOR of CHANGING THE NAME of the School District.

We are homeowners in Terra Linda and are humiliated and frustrated that we are forced to pay parcel taxes to support this offensive, divisive and racist moniker.

Thank you for not shirking this responsibility. It's bewildering that such an obvious injustice can be obfuscated. Please change the name immediately.

-Husband and wife in 94903  
Names withheld",

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,



"Dear Trustees,  
In the name of kindness, please change the name of our school district. It does not matter where ,Dixie, came from, only that it is offensive and even hurtful to many. Keeping ,Dixie, in any form would also undercut national efforts to remove public symbols of the Confederacy, and of the slavery and Jim Crow for which it has always stood.

The origin of the name is irrelevant to the need for name change. We cannot erase history, nor should we try to. But whatever our curiosity about how our school district came by its name, the proper forum for the explanation is the site of the Dixie Schoolhouse, immutably listed on the National Register of Historic Places and now sitting on the front lawn of Miller Creek Middle School.

The need for a name change comes from the fact that, for most people, ,Dixie, evokes racism. It may be something of a challenge to help those for whom ,Dixie, is merely the benign name of their or their children,Äs school district, people who are not racist themselves and have trouble understanding how to square their benign perception of the name with what most people hear. However, we can hope that they will learn to empathize with those, especially people of color, who find the name offensive and hurtful. It would be unkind to keep the name ,Dixie., We should not be teaching our children unkindness.

We should join national efforts to remove public symbols of the Confederacy

We should also join in national efforts to remove all public symbols of the Confederacy, notably by removing Confederate monuments, names and flags from public spaces. See, for example, the following:

[<https://www.splcenter.org/20190201/whose-heritage-public-symbols-confederacy>]

The name ,Dixie, evokes the Confederacy and all it represents. We should be joining in the national effort that affirms, ,That is not who we are as 21st century Americans., The name should be changed. (My personal preference would be for ,Live Oak, or ,Live Oak Valley.,)

Please, set an example of kindness for our children by changing the name.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]  
Marinwood  
"

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]  
"Please change the name of the school district, ,moving ahead for our students, success.,

My children attend Vallecito and Miller Creek. I feel fortunate to be a home owner in Terra Linda and make choices that support schools in this district.

I have been teaching mindfulness in the district for 3 1/2 years at Vallecito. Currently I am teaching TK-5 at Mary Silveira and Vallecito. Fall of 2018, I volunteered teaching mindfulness and yoga at Dixie elementary for two second grade classrooms. Our district has amazing teachers, staff, students and families. I believe Social Emotional Learning and Mindfulness are 21st century skills. ,Just what adults need to practice in our community right now.

My personal opinion is that we don,it need to look to history for reasons to keep the name Dixie. Instead, we should look at what, is happening in our country at the present moment and take a serious look at what, is happening in our community. What is it revealing to us?

There are active Neo-cofererate hate groups in this country that share the name Dixie. Dixie Republic and Dixie Identity. (Southern Poverty Law)

Students and parents of color have stood up at the board meetings and told us that the name ,Dixie, is hurtful.

We need to be culturally sensitive and inclusive. Leaders please protect our minority families and change the name. A name of a school district should not trigger fear, trauma, oppression in anyone. Chose a name that aligns with love, not hate.

Leaders please take a stand for inclusion and equity and change the name. It, is a teachable moment....without equity there is no equality.

Send a clear message that every student matters.

Thank you for listening.

In community,  
[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Dixie School Board,

When my family and I moved from Oakland to San Rafael in 2011, we were well acquainted with the neighborhood as we have had family members living in Terra Linda since 1961. Finding a safe school community that reinforced values of equity and inclusion was of utmost importance to us as we considered raising our children here. We are grateful for the alignment we've generally found in this regard during our daughters' enrollment at Vallecito Elementary School.

The resurfacing of the Dixie district name change has brought about important conversations, that I hope have helped us to better understand each other and build our community. Our community safety depends on being able to respectfully raise, discuss and make progress on issues such as this.

While it is true that the name Dixie represents our beloved school district, sadly the primary association with Dixie, broadly speaking, remains with the Confederate States of America (CSA). I encountered this again recently when I had a friend visiting from out of state. He noticed a bumper sticker with the words, "Dixie Youth" and shot me a look with his eyebrows raised. When I explained that Dixie was the name of our school district, he responded that his first guess as to what it referred to was a "David Duke, KKK youth organization." Of course, this is only one example, but I share it because the powerful association of Dixie with the CSA and racism is the exact opposite of what I wish our school district name would convey.

Our path ahead should be grounded in ways to build a more welcoming community and to actively turn away from the very things associated with the CSA that the word Dixie brings to mind for so many. The request to change the name is all the more important to consider at times when our country is so divided nationally, but as our local history shows, this request represents a longstanding tension regarding a school district name that, while beloved, has also consistently been confusing, hurtful, and alienating.

Together, we can do better. Changing the name of the district, sends the message that we are willing to evolve as necessary in order to live our values of equity, inclusion and community safety

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

---

"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.

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

cc also via eMail

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

" Dear Superintendent Yamashiro and Members of the Board,  
My name is [REDACTED]. My family has lived in San Rafael for more than 25 years. Two of our children went through Mary Silveira and Miller Creek schools in grades K-8 and I served on the Site Council at Mary Silveira between 2006-2009. Our family continues to support any effort to increase funding and resources for our schools. But today, we are more worried about the social and emotional health of our community than our home values or some unsubstantiated claims of local ,community history. Let me explain.

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. It is easy to see just how naive it was to believe this might impact any bully who wanted to hurt us with their taunts. We all know that words can hurt. What we don't want is for them to go on hurting us forever.

All the people of Marinwood, Lucas Valley, and Terra Linda must begin to realize, and learn and understand why the name of their school district is the problem.

More importantly, there is a large and growing faction of our community that is offended by the name and want it changed. I agree with one protestor (who has suffered greatly during the current school year because of this name) said at the last board meeting, because I believe the overwhelming White majority of our community does not have the right to say what the meaning and impact of this word is to them.

We cannot tell them it doesn't hurt. It does, and we all need to understand why, and we need to do something about it.

While the unnecessary pain and suffering of some inside and outside of our community is the primary issue here, let us also remember the facts. The name of our school district comes directly from sympathizers of the Confederate States of America and was intended to support the ideas of the Confederacy. Historically, politically, socially, and academically, there is complete and irrefutable, evidence linking the word ,Dixie, to the American ,Confederacy.

The Confederacy was a collection of American states that seceded from the United States of America for the expressed purpose of preserving, protecting, and defending slavery as their primary economic engine. Historians have documented more than 618,000 people who died in a great Civil War. A war fought specifically by the Confederacy to defend the right to hold slaves in America. There is no reasonable argument against this evidence.

During this year, is debate on the name, many people have given evidence to prove the word ,Dixie, is so inextricably connected with Confederate history that it cannot be disconnected, or seen in some ,modern, light that makes it shine without this horrifying history. I would add three truly modern stories: The first is about the many Southern Democrats who seceded from the Democratic party during the 1948 Presidential election. These Southern politicians formed a group they named ,Dixiecrats. The Dixiecrats were segregationist, and opposed to the ending of Jim Crow laws in America. They nominated a young Strom Thurmond for President who won 39 electoral votes. Thurmond is perhaps best known for giving the longest filibuster speech in US Senate history in order to defeat the Civil Rights Act of 1957.

The second story is about current research that shows a significant reduction in the use of the word ,Dixie, for business names in phone books in 100 cities all over the South over the past four decades. Further, the reduction in the use of the words Dixie, South, or Southern when looking in local phone books, is shown to be directly attributable to the population of African Americans in these towns. The people of the South are removing this name from their daily presence.

The final story is about political activist organizations who are now taking the matter into their own hands. They are finding and geocaching locations around the country that have Confederate monuments or have buildings and organizations with Confederate names or flags waving. The intention of these groups is to locate these places so individuals and groups can find them and ,modernize the location to better reflect their beliefs about American history and modern American culture.

It, is only a matter of time before one of these groups comes after our school district and school. In fact, the more times the words ,Confederate monuments, and ,Dixie, appear in the local and regional newspapers, the sooner these activists will arrive.

However, I still believe it is crucial for us all to understand that the history, as irrefutable as it is, actually matters less than what the people of the world believe and want today.

The division in our community does not come from the people who want to change the name. The name is what causes the division and we are trying to fix that problem. Those who want to keep the name are simply widening that gap. I believe history will show that any work over the years to delay, block, and resist these changes have been racist.

The current group of people who want to save the name believe ,the stakes are high, your home value, community history, and democratic principles are at risk.,Ä When did home values and community ,history become more important than taking care of citizens who are rightly offended by the name of our school and district and are currently facing what they see as the harassment and real hurt provided to them daily by the name?

We all know that words can hurt. But they can also stop hurting us if we take them out of our public lives.

As an 8th grade social science teacher in the San Francisco Unified School District, I teach in one of the most ethnically, culturally, and economically diverse classrooms in the Bay Area. More than 90% of my students are not white.

When I teach them about this issue I usually just let them read a few of the articles and letters to the editor of the Marin IJ along with some culturally relevant material covering the modern issue of Confederate Monuments around the country.

Then I ask them to do the same thing we do for almost every major issue we study. That is, think about the issue at hand, read the arguments presented, and take a side. Then I assign them to advocate for that position by creating a campaign poster, an editorial cartoon, or writing a letter to the editor. Each year for the past three years, over 95% of my students have called for changing the name. That, is over 300 students! I wish I could share with your their work because,

I believe, they represent the future of this country, and it is their notion of freedom, dignity, and respect that the majority of Americans fail to listen to, much less try to understand.

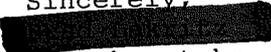
In 1965, Lyndon Johnson said in a speech before Congress: there is no Negro problem, there is no Southern problem, there is only an American problem. Just as Johnson said then, there is only an American problem today. What kind of America do we want to be? Do we want to be an America that only worries about home values for rich white people and their beliefs regarding the history of this country?

Or, would we rather be an America that truly believes that all people are created equal and have the right to liberty and happiness in their lives?

I, am hoping, for our community, it will be the latter. And we will agree to change the name of our district and school.

Do not wait, do not have an election. You must take responsibility for this issue and work toward a fix now. Start by changing the name of the district now. That is the best path to success and healing.

Sincerely,

  
Attachment has the same letter...

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Dixie District School Board,

I believe in education, evolution, enlightenment, and progress. I believe the current board is fully qualified to see the opportunity before it and be champions of change. I know you respect advocacy, equality, and experiences. You are a caring person. Listen to your conscious and the people affected. Please, change the name.

Resistance to this 100+ year status quo is understandable. Human nature can occasionally be self-serving and many good-hearted people are skeptical of risks. There will never be a time without opposition to new ideas. All changes have friction. Do not allow a passion for pause, to slow this process. Momentum increases power. The momentum is supportive of new branding and action. After 100+ years, I know the district is ready to mature to the next level.  
<https://hbr.org/2012/09/ten-reasons-people-resist-chang>

You are supported and respected. You are being offered financial support. You are being offered community outreach assistance. You have many poignant, emotional testimonials to refer to. You have more public support for change than you may realize. Now is the right time. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/ChangeTheName.net/videos/>

Delaying the decision allows tensions to continue escalating. Many stay silent in the face of ad hominem attacks as ,ÄÜWe are Dixie,ÄÜ has done to me on their website and more. I recommend Common Sense Media as a resource for those affected by what has recently occurred in Dixie. Let us keep moving forward.  
<https://www.common sense media.org/cyberbullying>

Please do not consider deflective arguments on this important social issue.  
[http://www.abuseandrelationships.org/Content/Behaviors/other\\_focus.html](http://www.abuseandrelationships.org/Content/Behaviors/other_focus.html)

I have personally advocated to address climate change, poverty, homelessness, human migration, diversity, women's rights, and sensible gun laws. I know personal passionate debates can be transformed to symbiotic partnerships and powerful progress. Action initiates healing.  
[https://blacklivesmatter.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BLM\\_HealinginAction-1-1.pdf](https://blacklivesmatter.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BLM_HealinginAction-1-1.pdf)

The incredible legacy of memories, volunteer hours, wonderful students, outstanding staff, and history will not be lost. Multiple people who have gone through a name change have explained this is a fear, not reality. Help your community move past fear and distraction by beginning the name change process. We need your bravery, detail orientation, and kind heart. Your district is ready to celebrate the future and stop reliving the past. Embrace the opportunity and be the Change.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"To the Trustees of our School:

I am a Vallecito mom of two, and I would very much like to see our District name changed to Skywalker or Miller Creek. They both have a relevant identity for our schools. I like the other choices as well, with the exception of having Dixie in the name. I do find that a little uncomfortable, and I really just don't think it fits our school identity anymore, if it ever did. The history seems arcane and fuzzy, and I'm guess that for most people ,Dixie, might bring a connotation with it that just doesn't represent the awesomeness of our District :-)

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
...Attachment has the same letter

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z

"Dear Dixie School District Board of Trustees,

Thank you for your commitment, leadership and public service to our wonderful district.

I am writing to express my support of changing the name of our school district. My top two name choices are: 1.) Lucas Valley Elementary School District & 2.) Miller Creek Elementary School District.

I echo the sentiments of Mary Jane Burke's December 14, 2018 and Jared Huffman's December 10, 2018 letters to the Board in support of the name change.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Dixie School Board,

I support the Dixie Name Change because words matter. As a writer and former teacher, I tell my own kids this constantly. I back up my daughter's English teacher when she circles the word thing, five times in two paragraphs and writes that this word choice didn't cut it. Because she is right. It doesn't matter if thing at the time, seemed a good choice. Thing in your head, might have meant neighborhood or community, or tradition. But it doesn't mean that to other people. Your intention in using a word, I tell my children, does not matter anywhere as much as how it is received.

My daughter, [REDACTED], an eighth grader at Miller Creek, has been on the receiving end of hateful words at school, some of the hate speech that you may have read about in the newspaper in December. And while I am not implying that our current district name is making students hurl hurtful language at each other, I do believe that keeping a district name that is genuinely hurtful to African-American people, even unintentionally, reinforces an idea that if you don't mean bad intent, it is okay to use words that hurt.

I doubt that, when confronted, students who used hate language admitted that they meant harm. Maybe it is true and maybe it is not that they didn't fathom the amount of pain their words could cause. But if there is even the slightest truth to these students' assertions that they didn't think about those words \*that way\*, if we do believe that some students who have used homophobic language, as they did toward my daughter, and racist language, as they have toward other people's daughters and sons, did not intend harm with those words then we need to model, as a community, taking responsibility for \*words\*. If we won't stop using a word, Dixie, that has hurtful connotations, how really \*can\* we expect kids not to use. But that's not what I meant as justification for words of hate?

My first choice for a new name would be Miller Creek Elementary School District because the creek itself is an important and beautiful place for so many of our students. My second choice would be Miwok Hills Elementary School.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Hello,

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]  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Resident for 14 years

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]  
"Dear Dixie School Board,

My husband and I moved to Terra Linda in 2017 and have been thrilled to be a part of this wonderful and inclusive community, especially since our son was born last summer. We have the most amazing neighbors and everyone we have met has been welcoming and kind. When we were house hunting, however, the name of the Dixie school district was something that made me hesitant about moving to Terra Linda. I was thrilled at the district's excellent reputation, but as a person of color, I find the name to be off-putting. I felt this way before hearing about any public controversy. Regardless of its origin in this particular case, the word "Dixie" unfortunately connotes racial oppression. I understand that no one likes change, but I am having a very hard time understanding anyone's resistance to this particular change. If the name makes rational people uncomfortable, changing it seems like a no-brainer to me. We are a predominantly Caucasian district and that alone can be difficult for people of color, who often feel out of place. I felt that way as an Indian student in a 99% white district in Wisconsin and, as a result, it took years for me to be able to feel proud of who I am. Having a district name that is as divisive as Dixie's would have made my experience even more difficult. I urge compassion and empathy by those who may (understandably) not get the experience of being "other" in a dominantly white environment. Imagine what it might feel like to be one of those students watching many white people fighting to keep a name that makes you feel uncomfortable. This type of thing does affect students' confidence and that matters. I would support any of the suggested alternatives. Please, please just change the district name so that I can be unreservedly proud to send my son to these wonderful schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
UC-Berkeley,

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Please change the name of the district. It is a small step we can do to show that institutional racism should not be accepted. I prefer Lucas Valley, but I'm not concerned about the new name as long as it does not include Dixie. Thanks for your time!",

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"My son is a student at Vallecito Elementary, and we could not be happier with the education. We are proud to attend a school where so much attention is paid to social-emotional learning, where respecting the feelings of others is taught daily as a core value. He is taught that it doesn't matter if you didn't "mean to" hurt someone's feelings - if they are hurt, you still apologize and try to make it better. Thus, it seems so clear to me that because of the negative connotations of the word "Dixie", regardless of the fact that no one currently in the District is trying to intentionally make people of color feel unwelcome, we should change the name to one that is more inclusive and less divisive.

Changing the name would not minimize the wonderful history of academic excellence and community strength the Dixie district has represented through the years, to the contrary, it would stand as an important symbolic activity that teaches our children that adults can also be mindful of others' feelings, and make hard choices to do the right thing. I would be proud to teach my children of the way the Dixie school district evolved over time, starting with the historic Dixie Schoolhouse and continuing to the present day, an incredible history lesson right in front of their eyes.

---

2019-02-04T08:00:00Z,,

"I am writing in support of the name change. I believe it is the right thing to do as it has been a hurtful reminder to so many. It represents a reprehensible time in this country and the change in name is step forward in inclusiveness in this community.",

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"President and Board Members,

I have resided in the Dixie School District for over 21 years. I was one of the three chief petitioners on the petition to create the Terra Linda Unified School District in the early 2000's and was a signatory on the last name change petition.

My children are very successful graduates of the Dixie School District with [REDACTED] being an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission and [REDACTED] being a designer with a well regarded architecture firm in San Francisco and currently taking her tests to be a licensed architect. I believe that their success was shaped by the outstanding education they received in this District; it was not due to the name of the District.

The name change issue has been a divisive one for many years. I understand the desire of the Board to hope that this issue will be resolved by the emergence of a consensus. Unfortunately that will not happen as those on both sides of this issue have strongly held views. To wait for a consensus will mean that the resolution of this debate will only be delayed with continued divisiveness into the future. The demand for a change in the Dixie name will not go away just as the demand to remove confederate statutes and monuments representing slavery and racial oppression will not go away in other parts of our country.

The decision by the Board to submit the question of the name change to the voters provided that the election is privately funded was simply a decision to avoid the issue, cloaked in a misguided appearance of democracy. The money needed to hold an election is too great and will not be raised. The election will not happen but the demand for a change in the name of the District will continue to increase as I have witnessed in the many years I have resided in this community.

As Board members you were elected by our community to make difficult decisions like this one. Although it seems to me that the explanation by John Miller's granddaughter of how our District got its name is much more persuasive than the recent speculation that John Miller named the District after a woman in Mariposa for which there is no evidence that they ever met. But the historical origins of the Dixie name are in the end irrelevant.

We are being blind to reality to ignore the fact that the name Dixie is well-know in our country to represent the Confederacy, slavery, segregation and racial oppression. This past Fall I visited the incredible National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC and better understood how names and symbols have been cruelly used in our society to oppress and deny opportunities to our African American citizens. It is plainly wrong to continue to call our District Dixie without regard to what this name means to many in our community and in our society at large. The harm and disappointment to those who want to keep the name is minimal

compared to the harm and pain caused to those for whom the Dixie name strikes a raw nerve.

The argument that the proponents of the name change are outsiders is offensive to those of us who support the name change and have lived in this community for many years and have spent many hours and dollars supporting the District. It is important to listen to the many prominent local political and educational leaders who have called for the Dixie name to be changed. The failure this time to change the name will only make our community look foolish and detached from the real world to the discredit of our excellent teachers and administrators and to the detriment of our students.

Please change the Dixie name. I do not have a strong preference on the new name selected from the submitted petitions and leave it to the good judgment of the Board to choose a name that better reflects the values of our community and the excellence of our schools.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
San Rafael, CA 94903

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

As a current employee at the Dixie site and having grown up in Marin County (San Rafael) I can't say that I am at all surprised at the uproar the name change proposal has caused. While this is by far one of the most welcoming communities I have ever been a part of in Marin, I've learned over the course of my life to not assume you know how someone will react when it comes to racism.

It is important to note that I am of Mexican descent. I grew up knowing very few people who looked or lived like me. That does something to you. You make every effort to try and be as similar as those around you and not stand out, especially as a child. You learn that there are things in life that "we just have to deal with" and move on. Times are different now. We are all faced with the task of evaluating our inherit biases and analyzing what we really think and feel. We may not always like what we learn. This is true with POC (people of color) as well. I look back to some of the things that were said to me or that I participated in, as a child and later as young adult, and I don't like it. This "deprogramming" of what we thought was OK is WORK. It is not easy. It is much easier to stick to the status quo sometimes and carry on as if nothing is wrong.

No matter what the true origin of the Dixie School name was, to say that it does not conjure up a Confederacy correlation is ignorant. To negate that this is painful for members of the community is just another example of that old attitude of something that people of color "just have to deal with". We've come too far to go back now. There is still so much work that we as a society have to do. Changing the Dixie name is a small step in the right direction. It will not negate all that makes this school and district wonderful, however it is time to have a name that is truly

reflective of what this community is. I am grateful to the members of the community that have stepped forward to start this process and I look forward to the healing that will start once this name change is approved.

Thank you for your time.

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,



"I am strongly in favor of changing the name of the Dixie School District. The name is outdated and does not reflect the times, let alone the values we should hold sacred as a society and as a place of learning, tolerance and acceptance for our children. We live in one of the most progressive regions in the United States and yet the district name is synonymous with the Confederate States of America and the Confederate Anthem. If we don't recognize the importance of changing this name here in Marin, how can we ever expect our fellow citizens in the South to take down flags and statues symbolizing the confederacy and the slavery, subjugation and racism it stood for? And what right do we have to condemn a public official who behaves in a manner that may have been more commonplace decades ago but that we must not support in public office and as an evolved society now? Finally, what message do we send to people of color who are looking to live, work and send their children to school in this area? For as progressive as we are on many fronts, racial diversity and integration is not our strength in Marin, and many people of color move to our county desperately in search of signs of inclusion and tolerance. Many choose not to move here in the absence of those signs. Let's show them that we are willing to spend our time and resources to ensure that our values of acceptance and inclusion are reflected in our learning institutions and that the district name in no way, shape or form suggests that we as a community are comfortable taking the easy way out or maintaining the status quo over standing up for what is right, moral and just. "

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,



"I support changing the name of the Dixie School District. There is no positive heritage to honor by the name 'Dixie'. It is name associated with a time of great evil in this country. Let's not pay homage to it. Let's use this as a teachable moment for our kids and evolve the name and our thinking into something that doesn't celebrate a dark past, but rather celebrates diversity and a future we can ALL be proud of.

Change the name, please.

Sincerely,



---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Board of Trustees,

As a proud San Rafael and Marin resident for 12 years, I'm joining the chorus of other caring and conscientious citizens in asking you to change the name.

We can -- and we must -- do better. It is no more acceptable to have a school district named Dixie than it is to have one named for the Third Reich or Anita Bryant. It's hurtful, harmful, and completely unnecessary -- we must listen, learn, and change.

White supremacy is embedded in the fabric of daily existence in the United States -- my gratitude is to the brave activists who have brought this opportunity to our community's attention and asked us to do better. Those of us who carry white privilege don't get to be the arbiters of what is racist or not racist. Our sole duty is to listen, learn, and use our privilege where we can to make a more equitable world.

I'm also grateful to the Buck Family Foundation and MCF -- while eradicating racism is worthy of our investment and tax dollars in all instances, these generous funders have taken money off the table, making the way forward simple: CHANGE THE NAME.

To those who are against the name, I leave you with this quote: "Equality can feel like oppression. But it's not. What you're feeling is just the discomfort of losing a little bit of your privilege."

We can all use this discomfort in our lives.

I'm trusting the board of trustees to do the right thing -- change the name to something that reflects the natural beauty we share here in Marin County. Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
San Rafael, CA

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Hello, I am a San Rafael resident. I want the school board to know that I support the name change. I hope the board votes to change the name. Thank-you",

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]  
"Dear School Board members,

I support changing the name of the Dixie School District to Terra Linda Elementary School District.

[REDACTED]  
San Rafael, CA 94903 "

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED], "A letter for the School Board's consideration.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
(Text is below in case the Word doc doesn't come through)

February 3, 2019

Dear Members of the Board,

Before anything else, thank you for taking seriously the work before you when it comes to the education of our children, and for your work to date.

As an 11-year resident of Marinwood, a native of the Bay Area, and the parent of a first-grader at Mary E. Silveira Elementary, I can say our schools more than live up to their fine reputation. We are thrilled with the education our daughter is receiving.

The reason I'm writing you is our district's name: Dixie. While that name rung a bit odd to me when I moved here in 2008, it wasn't until I learned about past efforts to change it-and saw the divisive nature of "Dixie" on NextDoor-that I decided to support a change to something more reflective of our community and its values.

One of my preferred names, "Lucas Valley School District," has met the requirement for your consideration. I urge you to ratify it. While I live in Marinwood, and know others in our district don't live in Lucas Valley, the school district I grew up in was named for a neighboring community. That never bothered me. And, unlike "Dixie," which instantly fails the Google test, "Lucas Valley" is neutral, geographically specific, and carries with it fine associations.

My preferred name for the Dixie school-"Joseph Eichler Elementary" in honor of a celebrated architect who left an indelible mark on our community, and a developer who was ahead of his time in promoting equal access for homebuyers-isn't on your list. Fortunately, there are other good names before you.

What we cannot do is lose sight of the issue at hand. The unfortunate actions and statements of a relative few on either side of this debate cannot be allowed to distract us-nor can any misuse of this good cause for personal or political ambition. If bad actors must be dealt with, let us deal with them later, as the separate issue they are.

As for the primary arguments against changing the name, they are weak:

" Our district has a fine reputation despite its name, not because of it.

" Of course there are other, bigger issues; that doesn't mean this one is unimportant.

" The cost has been nullified, or largely nullified, by the MCF's offer-and surely there are others who would donate more than we already do to CanDo.

" Arguments about the origin of our district's name and its historical value are, ultimately, a distraction-not because either side is wrong but because conclusive evidence is elusive.

" [www.behindthename.com/name/dixie/comments](http://www.behindthename.com/name/dixie/comments) They didn't have a choice. We do.

I ask you to consider a simpler, more practical viewpoint: "Dixie" is clearly divisive in Marin, in 2019. One look at NextDoor is enough to see this. Too often, the arguments presented by 5-10 proponents of We Are Dixie can be summed up as shades of "They started it!" or "Look what I've/we've been called," or "Look how we've been victimized." Rarely have their arguments demonstrated concern for the experiences of others. They also fail to recognize the fact that the demographics of our area have been changing and will continue to do so, a key reason this issue hasn't gone away since 1997 and is unlikely to go away in 2021.

Do we really want to keep kicking this can down the road?

"Put it to a community wide vote," say some, which sounds fair and good-at least until you get past the price of a special ballot and consider its potential cost. As a taxpayer, I don't think the price is justifiable-and ongoing conflicts and distractions make waiting a non-starter. On the other hand, let's consider the potential cost if a majority who live here say they're just fine with a name that fails the Google test so miserably? What then will our message to the world be? How will this affect our community's credibility? Will others see no parallels between "this" Dixie and "that" Dixie?

Unlike some in We Are Dixie, I believe outside opinion matters. No neighborhood is an island, and others here in the Bay Area and this great nation are watching to see if our statement really will be: "Keeping the name 'Dixie' is more important to us, no matter what it symbolizes for some." That isn't a message I want to send. Do you?

I know there are intelligent, well-intentioned proponents of We Are Dixie. Some are friends, and I view all of them as neighbors. I respect them and value their input, but cannot agree with their position on this matter.

Now is the time to leave "Dixie" where it belongs, to the old schoolhouse and historical record. Now is the time to state that we understand names are important, that we know names should be well chosen to ensure all feel welcome in this great community we call home.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Las Gallinas Avenue  
San Rafael 94903

"  
2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

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

I am writing in strong support of changing the name of the Dixie School District. While I'm partial to "Miller Creek Elementary School District" as a new name, I don't have any strong preferences save that we consult with the Miwok tribe prior to adopting a name referring to Miwok people or land (e.g. "Miwok Hills ESD," one of the proposed new names). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]  
"To the board members of the Dixie School District:

I urge you to select a new name for your school district at your upcoming board meeting. Many good names have been submitted by petition, and it is incumbent upon you to show strong leadership and choose a name that truly demonstrates the positive and welcoming aspects of the Marinwood community. As a San Rafael neighbor and taxpayer, I know that your district has demonstrated excellence and built a strong and caring group of families and educators - now is the time to highlight these by moving forward into the 21st century and rejecting a name choice made long ago that is harmful and exclusionary to many people.

Anyone's refusal to understand the violent impact of the Dixie name and the Dixie Confederate South is a deflection means to preserve our way of life here in California by pretending that racism has nothing to do with us. Legislatures throughout the country have been taking action to remove Confederate statues, flags, and other symbols in recognition of the harmful nature of publicly displaying symbols of racist oppression and violence. We need to do the same here. The Dixie name embodies warm feelings and memories for many families in Marinwood, but that same name evokes feelings of horror for those whose families have been affected by the Dixie ethos, not only in the South, but throughout our country.

Thank you for your service to your community-†,Äî I value your efforts and hope that you will choose to do the right thing, choose a new name, and choose a better future for all.

With thanks,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

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

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

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the name change. I feel that as a member of this supposedly open-minded, accepting community we should listen to our neighbors who are offended by the current name and absolutely support their wishes and change the name. I like Live Oak Elementary School District.

Thank you.",

"110eca0a-f688-463e-8e3a-65cfec1f8d3d",2019-02-03T23:37:43Z,2019-02-03T23:37:43Z,,2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,"~~Coastal Community~~", "Dear D-x-- School District administrators,

I went to Santa Margarita Elementary School in the 1960s. Since then, having moved to a former Confederate state, I have always wondered about the name "D-x--." The only association I have with that name is slavery and the Ku Klux Klan, but I thought surely there must be another reason it was chosen.

Since hearing about the controversy and that pro-Southern-treason sentiment was rife in the SF Bay Area back in the day, I have joined the current movement to CHANGE THE NAME.

Make me proud to say where I was educated as a child.

[REDACTED]

Albany, CA

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Board Members,

I have been a taxpayer in this District for over 30 years. I am proud of our children's achievements and have supported each parcel tax. However, the whole time that I have lived here I have been bothered by the name Dixie. It does not matter the origins of the District's name. Today, the name Dixie represents an ugly, hurtful chapter in US history and it has no place in our schools where we strive to treat each child with respect and dignity. I fully support the name change and pledge financial support to make it happen.

I ask the Board to show the same leadership that Mitch Landrieu did when he removed the confederate statues in New Orleans and Nikki Haley did when she removed the confederate flag in South Carolina. Our children and our community are watching our representative's actions. Let's make sure that our community and our elected Board members are on the right side of history.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Resident

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I support changing the name of the Dixie School District, if that's what the majority of the district residents favor. It's clear the name can be seen as discriminatory and demeaning in today's political climate. That's reason enough for the change.

I've looked over the proposed names. Any number of are acceptable. But could you leave out the word:"elementary"? To me it isn't needed, and it's inclusion creates an awkward sounding name, no matter which one you choose.

Unless it's mandated by some State statute my vote is to leave elementary out, period.",

"111909e6-891c-4592-802d-a65b5aeca521",2019-02-03T20:08:25Z,2019-02-03T20:08:25Z,,2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,"[REDACTED]a","To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to add my voice to the hundreds of people who support the change of the name of the Dixie school district. While some might feel that I should not be able to express my opinion on the matter since I neither work nor have a child enrolled in the district, I beg to differ. A name like Dixie comes with numerous negative and hurtful connotations and reflects poorly on all of Marin County, not just on the district itself. Marin already suffers from a reputation as a place with limited ethnic diversity and in need of increased awareness of and responsiveness to issues of social and economic justice. Although mostly a symbolic change,

renaming the Dixie school district is an important and positive step in the right direction toward making Marin County an inclusive and respectful home not only for people of color but also for all of us for whom social and economic justice are vital. I therefore strongly urge the district to immediately implement a change of name to one that has no negative or racist connotations.

In solidarity with all my sisters and brothers and even non-binary siblings all across the world fighting for recognition, safety and human rights,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I am a twenty plus year resident of Marinwood. My son attended Dixie School, Miller Creek middle school and TLHS. He went on to attend and graduate from UC Berkeley and currently resides in San Diego. We moved to this area because of its natural beauty and excellent public schools. Throughout the years my son was in school here, we deeply appreciated and took part in what we found to be a very caring and child- focused community.

To quote my son As someone who attended Dixie school, I had no clue what the name Dixie was associated with. Having a school named Dixie basically teaches kids that the name isn't worth learning about or caring about. I am ashamed of that name. So contradictory to what the school stands for. The name conditions kids to have a false understanding of its meaning, and fails to nurture the curiosity and motivation to understand the harm it creates.

We want our children to gain through education a full range of knowledge about self, others, and the world. And yet, in keeping the Dixie name, we are- however inadvertently, teaching and passing on a legacy of indifference and denial about the meanings and implications of the name

Despite ( and I would add- because of) the impacts of segregation in our county as evidenced by the 2017 race counts study which found Marin to be the most segregated racially disparate county in CA, I think we want our kids to develop empathy and take an active role in contributing to just, caring and safe communities for all of us

We create accessibility for members of our community who are disabled based on these values, not on whether there are enough disabled students or teachers to warrant our care. In the same way, the ongoing harm done to African American community members cannot be quantified. We already have knowledge ( as evidenced by so many who have given public comments) of that harm. I truly believe we are a community who deeply cares, especially about our children, and that by renaming the school district with a name that really reflects our shared values, we can join with others in leading the way towards more justice and equity in Marin and join with the many other communities around the country that have chosen to divest themselves of symbols of the Confederate South.

It is for all the above reasons, that I am urging the Dixie school board to vote YES on the name change, and choose a petitioned name

that can represent our community. I do not support any name with Miwok in it, as local Indigenous leaders have expressed their disagreement with using Miwok as a school district name, or James Miller- who was originally responsible for naming the school district Dixie. Nor do I support Mary Dixie as a viable solution, as this name is based on a questionable historical narrative and continues to ( in using Dixie) to have a harmful impact. I DO support Live Oak Valley Elementary School District, and other names that reflect the natural beauty of our community.  
Thank you for your consideration!

[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"My son is a student at Miller Creek Middle School and has been in the Dixie School District for several years. I fully support the name change. "Lucas Valley Elementary" would be fine with me, but I will support whatever name receives the greatest support -- just not Dixie, or Mary Dixie.",  
"da01ce72-f14f-4056-9ebd-9f3b6693808f",2019-02-03T19:48:53Z,2019-02-03T19:48:53Z,,2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,"[REDACTED]","I am writing to express my strong support for changing the name of Dixie School District and Dixie Elementary School, due to its associations with and connotations of racism.

I have a strong belief that this issue should be decided on by the elected Dixie School Board Members and not subject to a popular vote, as we are a representational democracy and the divisiveness of this issue is unhealthy for our community.

As a long-time resident of Lucas Valley, I support the selection of any new place-based name (Lucas Valley, Terra Linda, Oak Valley, Big Rock, etc.).

I thank you for your time and care to this issue and appreciate the integrity with which the School Board is moving forward. I look forward to resolution of the issue so that our community can move on and the healing of this divisive conversation can begin.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

---

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Please vote yes on Skywalker.

"skywalker (plural skywalkers)

(usually figuratively) One who walks in the sky.  
(specifically) A member of the Mohawk group of Native Americans; especially one who is or was involved in steelworking on tall buildings in New York City.  
(by extension from the previous) Any ironworker working at a height.  
One who walks along a skywalk or skyway." -Wiktionary

This name would be good for several reasons:

1. It would be a nod to George Lucas as a sort of apology for how a small minority of locals treated him when he wanted to bring (2) huge projects to our county.
  2. The name just sounds cool. People love Star Wars.
  3. It is native american. It is not a local tribe but then neither was ""Dixie"".
  4. It alludes to steelworkers, which again, is just cool.
  5. The other names are not even close to the coolness level of Skywalker.
  6. It would look good on t-shirts.
  7. It is fairly short in duration, so would save on ink.
- 

2019-02-03T08:00:00Z,



"To whom it may concern,  
I write this letter to show my full support of the Dixie School name change. Please have the courage to make this wrong right, to finally change this offensive, racially derogatory name, and to teach our children that we, as a community, support and respect our minority groups in Marin County and are willing to stand up for what is right. Be an example to the rest of our county, prove through our actions that we do not tolerate racism in any shape or form. Don't just say it, do it! In this day and age, when we know better, there is simply no compelling reason to keep a name that is so clearly hurtful to African Americans. After sitting through the meetings and listening to speech after speech, explaining so calmly and clearly what the term Dixie stands for, it is clear to me that for African Americans, there is simple no other interpretation of the name Dixie and quite frankly, it is embarrassing that so many white folks here in Marin have so little understanding of where the word comes from and what it means. Our education system fails us on that front, and our kids don't learn it in school, but we have a chance now to teach our kids real history, lessons and show them how to take responsibility and how to be better. My ten year old googled, why is the name Dixie offensive, and upon reading the answer, was immediately shocked and horrified that any school would be fighting to keep this name! Even my ten year old gets it! Please, consider this a great opportunity to be an upstander and effect change in our world. We owe it to our African American neighbors here in San Rafael. Change the name."

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,,

"Hello, I think it is very important to change the name of Dixie School District. The word Dixie is loaded with negative associations. Even if it was the name of a Native person in Marin it doesn't get rid of the negative associations. I would love to see a new name honoring the Native tribe of Marin. I have been a teacher in Marin for many years and I think this is a very important issue."

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,,

"I support changing the name of our school district. ",

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,

  
"I think Miller Creek Elementary school District would be a seamless transition especially since all students funnel into Miller Creek Middle School already. If it prevents even one family from feeling uncomfortable, it's worth it. No one should feel ostracized, especially when we claim to be an inclusive community. "

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,

  
"Please change the name of our school district to Lucas valley district or anything other than Dixie or skywalker.

The name needs to represent a district that is inclusive of all .

Sincerely  


---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,, "Dear Committee:

I ask that you vote in favor of changing the District's name for the peace of the community. The issue has become increasingly polarizing to residents. Petitions have come up in years past and they will probably never stop coming unless it gets changed. As a district resident with kids in local schools, I am honestly kind of tired of hearing the arguments year after year. I'd prefer the name to get changed just so the seemingly endless debate can be over with and the community can just put it behind us and move on to more productive things.

Thank you,  
An Exasperated Resident",

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,,

"I think the name should be changed and the new name of Big Rock Elementary sounds amazing"

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,

  
"Changing the Name is an opportunity for the community to come together, to be progressive, to be humanitarian, to live up to the image of the evolved, caring people that the rest of the Bay Area believes you are.

I am an African American man, Bay area native, and my home is in Oakland. When I first learned there was a school named Dixie just across the Richmond/San Rafael bridge I was, like "Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaat?!?" I initially believed that the name change would be strongly supported, and a matter quickly and easily resolved by the influence of a conscientious and considerate populace. Instead, I have been astounded by the adamant tenacity of a movement that wants to hold on to a name as dear to them that is so offensive to so many people.

There is such an awesome and appropriate list of possible new names that have been submitted. If the school were unnamed and Dixie were on this list, would Dixie be the choice today? I would hope not..",

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,,

"It's time to change the name of the Dixie school district to that of one that is more inclusive and less racist af.",

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,

  
"Please get the racist legacy of the Confederacy out of Marin! Our schools should eradicate hatred, not reinforce it! Thank you for standing up for the celebration of diversity and equality by changing the name of the Dixie school district. "

---

2019-02-02T08:00:00Z,

  
"I would like to ask that you change the name of the Dixie school district to something that represents justice and equality of all people. A name that would inspire the children within the district!!",

---

2019-02-01T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Why wouldn't you change the name? Not only is it racist, but it has diddly to do with California. If folks want to go to Dixie School they should move to Mississippi. It make about as much sense as naming it, Upper Peninsula School or Everglades School. Show a little pride and get a proper Californian name for crying out loud!

---

2019-02-01T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Hello, School Board members!

You administer a distinguished school district with unique and sought-after public schools. You set the stage for talented teachers and dedicated parents to jointly create an amazing learning environment for tomorrow's young people. Thank you!

Regarding renaming the School District: the old adage says "a rose by any other name is still a rose". Still, if the rose was given a name with bad connotations, the same rose would acquire those connotations in people's minds.

Our young family lived in downtown San Rafael for years. We left around when our first daughter turned two. I can accept being considered an 'outsider' in the debate on renaming the School District.

However, note that I take issue with the argument that any concerned person outside Terra Linda is an 'outside instigator'.

Analogy: if, at a social gathering, someone I barely knew walked up to me to politely tell me I was at risk of sounding racist, I would not call them an agitator. I would call them a friend I didn't know I had, and I would ask how I could avoid undeserved embarrassment.

Sincerely,  
A friend of yours in Petaluma",

---

2019-02-01T05:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I writing to add my voice to the many petitioners asking that you change the name of your district. I believe that Live Oak Valley Elementary would be best as the acronym would be LOVE and this fundamentally is what life and learning, particularly for children, is all about.

Respectfully, [REDACTED]

---

2019-02-01T08:00:00Z,

~~"Dobbie Gaudin"~~

"Dixie Name Change  
Dear School Board members:

The community will support you in going forward with the name change. It's long overdue. No matter what the name is changed to it will be better than Dixie. We want to be an inclusive and welcoming community to all people of color as well. As a mother of two girls who attended the Dixie School District and received excellent educations at Vallecito and Miller Creek , I know that they too want the name to be changed from Dixie as well. Our loyalty ,sentiment and fondness is to the area , friends and the schools and not the name Dixie. Former students and their families will understand that the school board did the right thing by changing the name . I like Terra Linda Elementary or Miller Creek Elementary the best from the list. However my first choice would have been Obama Elementary School District.. It would definitely attract positive attention in the long run and be a great positive politically aware statement along the lines of : People of Color we are now opened for business in 2019 and welcome you to our community.

Thank you  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

---

2019-02-01T08:00:00Z,

"We Are Dixie", "Please see the attached for what has been done and said to our community in order to ""win"" #NotLikeThis

We Are  
Dixie", "wix:document://v1/f6c018\_eecb014e134445c2ab85f2a18df31d2c.pdf  
f/HOW THE CHANGE THE NAME MOVEMENT HAS HURT OUR COMMUNITY  
STRATEGICALLY.pdf"  
"f363af4f-a6d3-4796-93c3-23c20c941dc3", 2019-02-01T18:03:46Z, 2019-02-01T18:03:46Z,,, 2019-02-01T08:00:00Z, "We Are Dixie", "Please see the attached for what has been done and said to our community in order to ""win"" #NotLikeThis

## **HOW THE CHANGE THE NAME GROUP HAS FUNDAMENTALLY AND PERHAPS PERMANENTLY HURT OUR COMMUNITY**

Our community deserves better than this and they deserve to be heard through a public vote. Please be aware that instead of promoting tolerance and diversity, the CTN group's leaders have unapologetically divided and harmed our community through aggressive media centric and abusive tactics. They believe that winning is the only thing. No matter if the community loses as a whole. It surely will. And that's just fine with

them. If the name ends up changing it should not be like this! #NOTLIKETHIS

They are Hurting our community by making harmful labels

Noah stating that he is saving Marin from itself (EXERPT FROM email he sent to the CTN petition signers)

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

**Change the name of Dixie School District!**  
THE CONFEDERACY DOESN'T NEED AN OUTPOST IN CALIFORNIA  
[WWW.CHANGETHENAME.NET](http://WWW.CHANGETHENAME.NET)

There goes another few hours of the Board's valuable time, wasted listening to the same old arguments and misinformation from activists.  
And just in case anyone missed one of their recent updates ... this is not about the kids or the district. It is about political ambition and the aim is to get national coverage and make a documentary  
Can you please let them get on with their job of managing the school district for our children?

**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 Pierson 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 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.

4 x · Edit · Reply · Share

**David Curtis** · Outrage is Ready · 4 days ago  
Once the name is changed they can go back to the financial reports no one cares about  
· Edit · Reply · Share

Noah Griffin bragging about the press he has gotten and what cowards the local parents in the community are for not wanting to go on camera. He has called every media outlet that he could in order to get press and drag our community down into the mud. He also shows that they went to the native American tribes and did "careful negotiation" (EXERPT FROM email he sent to the CTN petition signers)

Kerry Pierson attacking local Realtors and lying to spin a false

narrative because one specific realtor has been especially vocal against the name change so he said it is because she is trying to segregate communities.

<https://twitter.com/NewNameForDixie/status/1069023069484642305>

CTN group Inviting people from outside of our community to the board meetings

One by one the walls are being breached. The careful collection of the names, the proper vetting of the residences, the non-partial presentation with careful negotiation particularly with the native tribes all contributed to the professional manner with which everyone has comported themselves.

What most impressed me was the press reception, both print and electronic. The petition presentation press release which captured the attention of all the local outlets, resulting in coverage by channels 2, 4, 5, 7 and CBS radio as well as KQED's Forum.

All the interviews were as fair as could be expected, especially insofar as the "Keep Dixie" people refuse to present a spokesperson, put their names on their website or identify any leadership. How courageous.



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

Follow

Who is pro #Dixie? #realtors #sanrafael #marin



4:18 PM - 1 Dec 2018

## Tuesday Night Details

Please join me and people across the Bay area who support equity, inclusion and the name change for Dixie School District. The meeting begins at 6pm, **not 7pm**. The board meeting is located at the Dixie District Office at 380 Nova Albion Way, San Rafael, CA. [Read the board agenda](#). The name change will be addressed in agenda items 5.2 and 5.3.

Upon arrival, you will see white cards stacked by the entry. Put your name on a card and write down the general topic you wish to discuss: "Dixie Name, agenda items 5.2 and/or 5.3." Hand your card to the board secretary who sits next to Dixie Superintendent Dr. Yamashiro. Speakers have no more than 2 minutes. We encourage you to attend even if you do not want to give public comment.

### "David Duke" signing up on the behalf of the KKK on the We Are Dixie.Org website



Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 2:43 PM

Show Details

→ You forwarded this message on 10/25/18, 3:51 PM.

Name: David Duke

Email: [DrDukeinfo3@gmail.com](mailto:DrDukeinfo3@gmail.com)

Comment: On behalf of the KKK and white people everywhere, I want to say thank you for totally not being racist idiots.

Are you a Dixie School District Resident?: No

Street You Live On: 10 Mt Hood (like the KKK)

Time: at

IP Address: 73.202.166.244

Contact Form URL: <https://wearedixie.org/joinus/>

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

### Husband of board member Marnie Glickman terrorizing and saying horrible things about

people that want to keep the name of the school district. He seems to target women in his posts and his "house visits". He also has said bad things about his wife's co-board members and sent in nasty letters in an attempt to hurt their credibility and she has done nothing to stop this or apologize to her constituents and co-board members. He also has threatened multiple lawsuits.

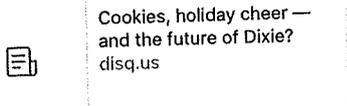
Search Twitter

Log in Sign up

dc @dc\_us · 2h Alissa Chacko should resign from the Dixie School District board before she causes them more legal bills. DC

dc @dc\_us · 3h The leadership of the Dixie School Board must change. Honsberger should allow the leadership seats to rotate and Chacko should resign. Multiple Brown Act violations and harassment of fellow trustees under their "leadership". DC

dc @dc\_us · 3h "David - you are so passionate and driven. One has to wonder when the (dim) light bulb started to..." — saltydog05



WeAreDixie is a hate group



WeAreDixie is a hate group Post by @dc\_us. nci-des.org

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

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

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

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



David Curtis  
@dc\_us

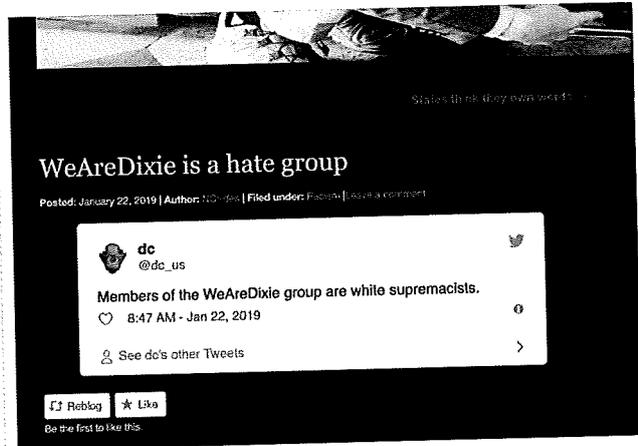
Follow

I'm signing on behalf of all the real estate bitches. Because their commissions are more important than well ANYTHING really. I try to send as much business to those bitches as possible.



**Dixie School District Name - Sign Our Petition**  
Dixie School District petition to protect our name and the good kids and people within our community.  
wearedixie.org

9:38 AM - 3 Dec 2018



There are many more social media posts he has made but the above gives you the idea of what Marnie's husband David Curtis has been doing to this community including calling neighborhood women, showing up their doorsteps, sitting outside of their homes, sending threatening texts telling a local woman that he will be ridding the community of racists (very ominous sounding) and harassing local residences online.

Below is a letter he wrote trying to harm the reputation of one of his wife's co-board members.

12/23/2018

Mary Jane Burke

Marin County Superintendent of Schools

superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org | 415.499-5801

Superintendent Burke,

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

Alisa Chacko 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/Trustee.

She conspired with former Trustee Schott and Trustee Honsberger to delay potential efforts to legally change the name through petition, and brought forward a forced vote of a non-agendized item to require a public vote on the issue in two years. 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 petitions to change the district name. Petitioning is constitutionally protected.

5. She is incompetent. She directed staff to send an email doodle poll 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 is often barely awake, frequently yawns, and barely maintains focus.

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

not hear multiple requests, in open sessions.

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

Respectfully,



David Curtis



San Rafael, CA 94903

Marnie posted a photo of herself laughing at our community and the turmoil because of this change the name issue that she is leading

More information on the calculated and aggressive tactics that have been done can be seen on these 2 pages of the [www.WeAreDixie.org](http://www.WeAreDixie.org) website: <https://wearedixie.org/they-did-what/>  
<https://wearedixie.org/marnie-glickman-should-resign-or-recall/>



marniemlx  
Lucas Valley, California



**Our community deserves better than  
this and they**

**deserve to be heard through a public  
vote. Please do**

**not let these bullies who are hurting  
our community**

**members change the name this way. If  
the name**

**ends up changing it should not be like  
this!**

**#NOTLIKETHIS**

---

2019-02-01T08:00:00Z,

  
"I support the vote to change the name from Dixie, and I recommend keeping it short and sweet. Let's avoid a mouthful of several words strung together so as not to exclude anyone. Sheesh!"

Live Oak Elementary School District represents the beautiful trees that thrive throughout our entire school district and county, and have been here longer than any of us before or during the times of Dixie."

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Here is the letter I wrote - feel free to copy and paste into the submission form listed in Bruce Anderson's post below. All written comments must be submitted by 3pm on February 4, 2019. Too many #fauxgressives living in Marin, making it very difficult to get the #DixieSchool name changed.

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

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

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

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

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I support the name change of Dixie Elementary School to something that has local meaning and has no racial connotations.",

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board,

I have two children in the school district, a kindergartner and second grader. I love my community and I want my community to be welcoming with open arms to all people. Why would we want a name of a school district or school that is reminiscent of the confederacy and slavery--regardless of the history of how we got that name? Why on earth would we want anything less than a name that is inspiring for our children and schools? It is my sincere hope that for the

benefit of our community and especially our children, that we change the name of the school district and work hard to create more understanding and connection in our community. Thank you.", "53976d7a-4d9a-4fab-a4da-edfb5451235e", 2019-02-01T04:26:07Z, 2019-02-01T04:26:07Z,, 2019-01-31T08:00:00Z, "Lisa Pavlovsky", "I support changing the name of the Dixie School District. The time has come. This is the 4th time this issue has arisen and the inappropriateness of the name will not change over time . We will be revisiting this issue again and again if we do not act now. We need to move beyond this divisive issue and heal. There is no reason to hold on to the name as it has no positive connection to our community.  
Of the names submitted I support the Miller Creek Elementary School District.  
Thank you",

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I am writing to request that the school district's racist name be changed as soon as possible. Having a school district named Dixie is a disgrace on Marin County and the entire Bay Area. I say NO to racist symbols like Dixie.

Thank you.

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"There is a great deal of tension amidst this argument over whether or not to change the name. Ultimately we've reached the point of no return and a decision must be made.

If there is indeed an offer on the table for the expenses to be paid for, this decision should be easy.

I would implore you to move forward with this change. If you decide to change it, your worst case scenario is you'll have residents who are annoyed that the district goes by another name. If you decide to keep it, your worst case scenario is that you'll have residents who feel hurt and betrayed by the district.

Politically, pragmatically, and ethically, I simply cannot see a reason why we should not move on and choose a different name.

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"As a Dixie district resident for almost 20 years, I understand the local pride in the word, the connotation of academic excellence. But as a newcomer, it was certainly a strange and off-putting district name.

The primary association for the word "Dixie", in the larger U.S. community, is the Deep South, the Confederacy, oppression and intolerance. If this is not who we are, why are we clinging to this awkward name ?

Dolly Parton, a beacon of Southern pride, has dropped Dixie from her playlist. We should follow her lead, and the advice of Mayor Gary Phillips, Superintendent Mary Jane Burke, and many others, and change the name now.

Miller Creek school district is a bland, inoffensive, name that also refers to the waterway shared by all of our schools. Miwok Hills school district would recognize the peaceful tribe who once lived here, a tribute long overdue.

I sincerely hope the trustees demonstrate leadership and empathy and vote for change! Thank you, [REDACTED],

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

"[REDACTED]

"I am a San Rafael resident and parent of a kindergartner at Dixie Elementary. I often cringe when I tell people that, because even as a white woman I don't feel good about the name Dixie. I am in favor of the Dixie School District name change.

I believe it is imperative that we model to our children respect, inclusion, and compassion. Changing our name demonstrates that we respect all people, have compassion for their feelings, and strive to include all people.

We've already lost a dear family of color at our school because of this issue. Let's keep that from happening again. It is worth the investment of time and money."

"94a4e7d6-9a3e-4815-a553-77ab7f458bf3",2019-01-31T15:45:15Z,2019-01-31T15:45:15Z,,2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,"Michelle Bain","Please change the name of Dixie School District and school. Not appropriate and sends wrong message. Doesn't make sense to our children. Thank you so much. "

---

2019-01-31T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]  
"Dear Dixie School District Leaders-

I support and humbly request that you likewise support and vote to change the District's name to a more inclusive, modern, inspirational choice, more aligned with the spirit of Marin County and the District.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
Attorney- Civil Rights, Labor & Employment

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Board Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, I'll note that as a practical matter, this has come up 4 times in a formal way over 20 years. It is unlikely that if you vote no it will not come up again and will continue to be divisive in our

community. Why would such an issue resurface time and time again? Because it's intensely painful to some members of our community while for the rest of the community it's a name (with positive or neutral connotations). When a minority of people in a community have to swim upstream against something so deeply painful it takes time to rally after any setback, but it should be clear that those of us who advocate change will continue to rally.

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

Thank you.

--  
[REDACTED]

"Justice is what love looks like in a public place"  
Cornell West",

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,  
[REDACTED]

"My family and I have lived in the Dixie district for 10 years and my 3 children attended Dixie Schools. From my perspective this is obviously the right thing to do. I know that people have wonderful memories and experiences of their and their children's time in school, but those experiences are actually about the people and the community not the name itself. Regardless of the history, the name Dixie is intrinsically tied to the slavery and racism. It should be uncomfortable for everyone and its clearly painful for many. It does not reflect the community of welcoming inclusion that we strive for.

Difficult decisions are not often made by community consensus, they are made courageous leaders ready and willing to do the right thing. I am asking you to be those leaders, do whats right for our community now.

My pick would be Live Oak Elementary School District

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,,

"Hello, Please change the name. It is important for all of us and our children in the district. I would just request that you do not choose someone's proper name for the district name- you never know what other history or background might be discovered. "

---

2019-01-30T17:00:00Z,  
[REDACTED]

"There is no place for this name in this time in history."

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

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

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

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

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

Change the name.

My top 3 replacement names are:  
-Miwok Elementary School District  
-Miwok Hills Elementary School District  
-Live Oak Elementary School District

Thank you.

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z

"I support renaming of the school district. No value in invoking pain to any part of the community",

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I would like to sign the petition to change the name of Dixie School District: I am amazed that there is even a question. Thank you. Let's make everyone feel welcome, even if our community is almost white.",

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I just submitted a letter in favor of the name change, but forgot to include my vote for which name I think is best. I am in favor of changing the name to Oak Valley Elementary School District. Lucas Valley is the name of a neighborhood, so I don't feel that it's inclusive enough. "

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"To the Dixie Unified School District Trustees:

I'm writing to you to express my conviction that changing the Dixie name is the right course of action. When I voted for the new female board members, my hope was for the Board to be infused with some progressiveness in both educational practice and policies. Dixie School District, though high performing, has been fairly traditional in it's practice and this name change debate is a welcome opportunity to become more in line with the 21st century landscape. An overwhelming amount of intelligent, highly respected, academic, and diverse people have come out in favor of a name change. The reasons for doing so are vast and the reasons against are just the cost of money and the name being associated with a high performing school. The high performing, attractive qualities of our school district will not change with a new name. Those of you, who are new to this board, I urge you to be bold and choose the side represented by reason, history, and racial sensitivity. I'm not going to spell out all of the evidence that supports the name change, since I imagine that you've heard all of those arguments. My main reason in supporting the name change is simple. People are offended by the name Dixie. It is that simple. Even if is is a minority of people, if those people aren't feeling safe and secure, sending their children to a school with the name of Dixie or any child feels less secure, learning in a school under the name of Dixie, then it is important to change it. My own school district changed it's name and it wasn't a big deal. The costs are minimal, but the impact is great. Fitting that this debate centers around a school district, so please use the power of education to help our district be in alignment with the current times and not a reminder of past hate and oppression.

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"If the name Dixie is offensive to one perso or a hundred should be changed. I grew up in Alabama and have always known what the name stands for and that is racism. This is my vote for change. Thank you.",

"83f7b557-d475-4b1a-88df-c98cd77d35c9",2019-01-30T17:00:52Z,2019-01-30T17:00:52Z,,2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,, "As a Marin County resident in the San Rafael area, I am in support of changing the School District name of Dixie School District to a more contemporary and all inclusive name that represents our schools. ",

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I am a teacher at Miller Creek Middle School. I believe our district should change its name. The word Dixie has hurtful connotations. The past that the word Dixie is associated with is a painful one. We need to be a school district that feels inclusive and supportive to all our students. Having Dixie in the name of our school district does not do this. Please vote to change our school district name.

Thank you for reading my comments,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-30T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Please change the name of the school. It has an awful connotation and history. We need all confederate symbols gone!"

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z

"This name does not represent pride for anyone. It does not represent America. It does not represent California. It is offensive as an educators! It's offensive as a citizen of California. It is offensive as an American!! Change the name to represent ALL of us!",

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear Dr. Yamashiro,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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

-MLK Jr.

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

-MLK Jr

" ,

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z,,

"I am a ten year and a half year resident of Lucas Valley. My two children attended Dixie elementary school. The Dixie school district is an accepting, welcoming and nurturing environment. We moved from San Francisco which pales in comparison to the positive environment we found in the Dixie School District. I do not support a name change. I support the Dixie School District! "

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I am writing the board to request that they say no to all 13 petitions put before them for the name change. Not only am I a resident of this district for the last 6 years but I also serve on the Can Do! board and volunteer at M.E.S. school where my son is in 3rd grade. I have up until now been a part of a wonderful and inclusive community and am saddened to see how this topic has changed people and the closeness that was here.

I truly believe that as a board representing a community of over 14000 people it is your duty to let the community be heard and a district vote is the only way to do this where hopefully this matter will be settled once and for all.

A very seasoned board voted to take this issue to a democratic advisory vote within the Dixie School District community as it was too big for them to decide on their own and a new board with two members who have no experience should not be making this kind of decision.

The people of the community are the ones who support our schools as well as Can Do! and they need to be the ones to decide the outcome of this.

Please say no to all names presented and send this to a community vote.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z,

"Thank you",

"Thank you so much for your time -

As a reflection of our current state - I think it is absolutely best to change the name of the school district. If we have a chance to be respectful we should!"

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I am writing in support of changing the name of the Dixie School District. Regardless of the history of the name, it is clearly offensive to some and has to be explained.

And as long as you are going to rename it, why not pick either a neutral name (like the town your are in), or name it after someone who is more revered in our community, like John Muir.

Thank you.

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z,

"[REDACTED]

"Dear School Board Members,

I add my voice to the many you've received asking you to change the name of your school district and remove any and all associations with the Confederacy. Knowledge and awareness of this part of our country's history belongs in our history classes, documentaries and movies where an open discussion can take place afterwards. No where should we see a tribute or homage to the racist mentality that belonged to the Confederates. Please change the name.

Thank you.",

---

2019-01-29T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Change the name!

Ignore the comments from complacent white people who mean no harm by clinging to a name that offends and intimidates persons of color and their allies.

Words matter. Names matter. Intent or origin is not important. Children are not excused from using hateful language ("that's so gay") simply because they meant no harm.

The District's excellence is not a result of its name. None of its successes will be lost or tarnished. In fact, by becoming more welcoming and more equitable, the District can confirm its excellence and its commitment to all students and to all of the community.

[REDACTED] Marin County Human Rights Commission (title for informational purposes only)"

---

2019-01-28T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I support changing the Dixie name.

I like Big Rock Elementary

Thank you",

---

2019-01-28T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Hello,

I live off of Smith Ranch Road and I am a parent of a toddler. If a name of a school upsets people and is associated with racism, it should be changed. I am not sure why this hasn't happened already. I would never send my child to a school with a name in any way associated with racism. Would rather homeschool than do that.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-28T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"My son went to Dixie elementary and Miller Creek, both wonderful schools. We still live in the community. It's with this love of the district that I implore the School Board to change the name of the district to something that is non reminiscent of painful times where racism was rampant and overt hatred of people of color prevailed.

We have a moral obligation to change the name, to show up for what is right, and to teach our children that when we see offensives, we admit our mistakes and take action toward good.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-28T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"My family has been in San Rafael for nearly 60 years. This proposed change is a waste of money - do you have extra? Spend it on teachers or enhanced programs.

The word ""Dixie"" itself sn't racist. Most of those you think would be offended probably don't care about some historic name.

Have you taken a survey of your district's families?  
Do they want money spent on this?  
How long have you lived in the area? Long time residents likely  
won't want it changed. It's our history. Leave it alone.  
It's not broken. Don't try to fix it.  
",

---

2019-01-28T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Dear School Board,

I support changing the name of our school district (and elementary school). We feel the basic principles of equality and inclusion exceed the need for consistency or adhering to a tradition. Friends of ours have recently left the school, and it saddens my heart to think that is a product of something that could be easily changed.

While I'm sure you're aware of it, this debate has brought out the worst in some. I've seen threads on the social network "next door" laced with racist humor which made me cringe.

As a parent of a Kindergartner at Dixie Elementary, I'd like you to know how much we love our school, the entire staff and the families we've met. While only 5 months into our journey we feel fortunate to be a part of something so wonderful.

I support the following name changes, which I think reflect our area and values:

- Big Rock
- Lucas Valley (my favorite)
- John Muir

Really, I'm in favor of any name that no longer uses the word/name "Dixie."

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-28T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"To Whom it May Concern:

I urge you to change the school district name. The current name's association with the confederacy and its legacy of subjugation and racism is disturbing. I don't have a strong preference as to name, but I'm most inclined to change to Mary Dixie, honoring local Native American history, as well as hopefully calming some of the controversy with local people who inexplicably have a problem with the notion of changing the name.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-27T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Staying with the name Dixie, with the association to a time of bald faced racism, sends the wrong message to our kids, our neighbors and ourselves. In our current time, with a resurgence of racism, it,Äôs especially important to make a statement against intolerance and hate.

I prefer the name: Lucas Valley Elementary School District

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-27T08:00:00Z,,

"I am in full support of the Dixie School District name change. While it may not be a high priority for the majority, the fact that it is a daily reminder for even one person in our district of the painful memory of America,Äôs ugly history of slavery is reason enough for the change.

I support the Miwok School District, to honor the Indian Americans who called this District their home before us.",

---

2019-01-26T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"Please consider the following as the new name for the school district: ""Lucas Valley Elementary School District"" ",

---

2019-01-26T08:00:00Z,

"Rebi [REDACTED]"

"I support the name change. The current name is objectionable to some in our community and for that reason, it,Äôs objectionable to me. Let,Äôs make this change for the sake of inclusion. We have much to do in Marin to address the racism that still exists. This small thing might help.

My favorite names:

Live Oak Valley Elementary School District

Live Oak Elementary School District

This Valley was filled with Live Oaks- symbolism of trees and roots touching and connecting us...

I don't like the other names for the following reasons:

I believe there are issues with John Muir and questionable treatment of indigenous people.

This area isn't Miller Creek, confusing with Miller Creek Middle School

This area isn't Big Rock.

This area isn't Terra Linda, confusing with TL High School

Terra Wood – doesn't mean anything, sounds too pre fab  
Mary Dixie - still has Dixie

Thank you for the opportunity for sharing my opinions.  
Warmly,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-26T08:00:00Z,

[REDACTED]

"I am a physician practicing in the Terra Linda neighborhood since 2002 and previously for the Marin County Health Department since 1986. Both my children attended Vallecito Elementary and Miller Creek Middle School.

There is no reason to keep a name that is hurtful and divisive. Nothing good comes of an attachment to local history that does not take the larger context into account. Regardless of the actual origin, the larger meaning and context for "Dixie" is clear. For many, this name evokes slavery and racism. Why would we choose to keep such a name? We are better than that.

I would be happy with any of the suggested names except for Mary Dixie. Same problem and no need. Live Oak School District is my favorite.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

---

2019-01-26T08:00:00Z,

"AF in 94903",

"Changing the name of the district seems like an easy decision: yes, change it. The enslavement and oppression of slaves captured and brought to America from Africa is something to be ashamed of, not something to celebrate or honor. "Dixie" refers to the place and traditions that perpetuated those crimes. Please change it.",  
"1ec2b100-11ab-4fde-85dc-01c8c63a1552",2019-01-25T23:36:43Z,2019-01-25T23:36:43Z,,2019-01-25T08:00:00Z,"[REDACTED]","Dear Board Member,

Two questions:

1. Do you believe the Dixie School District is racist?
2. If the word Dixie could be banned nationwide, overnight, would that have any appreciable effect on racism in the U.S? ",  
"7857c13d-3403-4d92-b1c3-e80e56891409",2019-01-25T20:39:11Z,2019-01-25T20:39:11Z,,2019-01-25T08:00:00Z,"Dear Dixie District Board Members,

We have lived in the Dixie School District for more than 25 years and 2 of our children received excellent educations here. We feel

very strongly that one of the most inequitable aspects of the name change debate is that members of the school board are being pressured to resolve this highly divisive issue without an advisory vote from the residents of the district. We support the wisdom of the board's recent 4 to 1 vote to put this issue on the 2020 ballot and allow our democratic process to decide, or at minimum advise. We urge you to not consider the name change until the voters within the Dixie School District have spoken.

Thank you for your service!

---

2019-01-25T08:00:00Z,

  
"Subject: Community Must Vote on Name Change

The only equitable way to decide whether or not the Dixie name should be changed is to put it to a vote of all the people who live and pay taxes in the school district."

---

2019-01-25T08:00:00Z,

  
"Hello,

I'd like to offer a suggestion if the board decides to move forward with a name change: on Feb 12 temporarily reject all submitted names in favor of greater community participation, re-set the clock for another 40 days, and ask the community, including (and especially) the school children, for additional names. (I'm unaware of your legal restrictions so apologies if this is not possible.) This will at least create greater inclusion for those in favor of the name change as a large percentage were unaware of the process and did not participate in the 13 original considerations; others may have more recently become in favor of the name change. And for both sides of the issue, another 40 days is probably about all any of us can take re: putting this issue to bed and moving forward together to heal our community.

I also feel that waiting for a 2020 election will further fracture our community for a LONG time.

If there's anything I can do to help pre- or post-Feb 12, just let me know. Meanwhile, thank you for your service, and I will support whatever decision you make.

Best,  


---

2019-01-25T08:00:00Z,

  
"Please work to keep the discussion of the name change going and try to keep everything as civil as possible. ",

---

2019-01-24T08:00:00Z

"I respectfully request that a proper vote be done in a ballot election format rather than a school board meeting. There is so much divisiveness on this issue that it is completely unfair to expect those with differing viewpoints and concerns to feel safe expressing them in a forum that holds such views publicly accountable. To put this matter to a proper vote (to change the name or not) seems best put to the ENTIRE community within the school district via an election ballot. Only after those results have been tabulated by an independent governing body, should naming particulars be voted upon. Please, please, PLEASE do not make this decision at a School Board meeting.

Caring Deeply,  
a long-time Marinwood resident with strong feelings who doesn't feel comfortable sharing them with dear neighbors",