

Dear Members of the Dixie School District Board:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

~~Hilary Davis~~

~~600 Cedarberry Lane~~
San Rafael, CA 94903



DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie issue

1 message

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 8:10 AM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Cc: [REDACTED]

RESENT from a letter sent 12/18.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@applegarth.net>

Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2018 9:24 AM

To: 'Brad Honsberger:' <brad.honsberger@gmail.com>; 'Alissa Chacko:' <achacko@dixieschooldistrict.org>; 'Megan Hutchinson:' <meganhutchinson24@gmail.com>; 'Brooks Nguyen:' <brookscnguyen@gmail.com>; 'Jason Lustig Yamashiro:' <superintendent@dixieschooldistrict.org>; 'Mary Jane Burke:' <mjburke@marinschools.org>

Cc: sterling@marinij.com; 'John Applegarth' <john@applegarth.net>; nancy@applegarth.net

Subject: Dixie School Name Change

Dear All,

I am writing to respond to the current issue of renaming Dixie School in Lucas Valley.

My husband John & I lived in Lucas Valley, raising our 3 children in Dixie, Miller Creek & Terra Linda High Schools. We moved to Lucas Valley from San Francisco to be part of a community that is focused on family, straightforward values and a culture that is appropriate and realistic. We were active members of the Lucas Valley Swim Team, the Dixie school district parent boards and various other community groups.

The renaming issue of Dixie school is one of those social issues that embarrasses us and our time in Marin. The obvious over reaction to this small, historical element was brought to the public eye by a **non - community member** with an agenda that damages not only our values, yet also our ability to assess the truly important issues in the community. Setting an example of tolerance and strength for our kids is what we, as parents strive for, not enflaming a small fact into an overblown non-issue.

Lucas Valley has been a fantastic place to raise a family, offering our kids a solid view of what it means to be a productive member of society. This over reaction to a name that had absolutely no intent of being racist, disrespectful or inappropriate is yet another reason Marin needs to take a step back and think about priorities. As I write this, my teen age children are laughing out loud at the absurdity of this issue, yet another reason this issue should be erased from Marin's agenda.

In short, **I am, and my entire family is completely against the effort of renaming Dixie School.** I ask the efforts of this elected board focus on issues that are real and affect the true education of our kids.

Thanks for your time,

[REDACTED] Applegarth

[REDACTED] Applegarth



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Name Change Debate - comment

1 message

[REDACTED] <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 8:32 AM

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

Dear Board,

I grew up in Lucas Valley in the '70s and '80s. I attended Dixie School, Mary E Silveira, Miller Creek and Terra Linda. I still have family and friends in the Lucas Valley and Marinwood communities. The Dixie School District has always been associated with quality education. Nothing political. Nothing negative. And definitely not racist. To imply otherwise is divisive and in my opinion bigoted.

The name Dixie is intertwined with the inclusive communities of this area. The schools are meeting grounds for parties, sports and other functions. Community gardens and Marin's special appreciation for nature and open spaces are reflected in the schools of the district. It is irresponsible and misdirected to attach negative connotations to the name for an unrelated region/period of our nation's history. The fortunate and open minded people who appreciate the history of Marin County and who have lived in the area or attended or worked at the schools would not (and should not) think that a name change is anything but unchecked political correctness.

Please do not leave a name change up to the Board to decide. The people of the community are most affected by the name change and should have the option to vote on it.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

Dixie Name Change

1 message

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

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 8:34 AM

Dixie School Board,

Almost every election, you turn to the voters and ask for more money. This community has never failed to vote you increased funds when you ask for it. And now, you want to spend money on changing the name of a school district that percentage wise, no one wants you to change.

No child is going to school in fear because the name of the school. No one is even quite sure how the name became Dixie School District. There are only opinions as to how it became so. And based upon opinion, and the few who are extremely vocal, we are going to spend precious funds to change a name. That name change will mean spending money, money that should be filtered down to the teachers. Money that should be spent on bettering the education of our students.

If you feel this is so important, and so toxic to our community, then put it on a ballot. Make a special election. But let the community who contributes property taxes to the Dixie School District decide how they want their tax dollar spent. Do NOT leave it in the hands of board members to decide. The few should not dictate to the many. As a democracy, let the process determine the outcome. Allow EVERYONE involved to vote.

Respectfully,


Appleby Davis
San Rafael, CA 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie Name Change:

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 10:05 AM

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 991 Las Gallinas Ave. San Rafael

Dear Dixie USD:

As a resident of San Rafael and with a daughter that attends Dixie Elementary School, I am unhappy about the recent proposal to change the District's name from Dixie USD. The name Dixie refers to the southern states of the U.S. as a geographic area. The name Dixie USD and Dixie Elementary School do not have any racial intent or purpose held by the community at large or anyone I've ever come into contact with. Furthermore, many other school districts, businesses, and organization use the name Dixie not for racial purposes but many people like the name as it represents the symbolic geographic beauty of the southern region of the U.S.

Additionally, the name was never an issue nor something that anyone vocalized a concern for until Marni Glickman inappropriately brought up the issue outside of the Board's proper procedures and in an attempt to circumvent the Board's rules and guidelines. She has created an unnecessary controversy that is causing unnecessary community division and may result in an unnecessary expense to change the District's name that takes important funds and resources away from student learning and development. Also, a name change would come at the costly expense of many sports and other organizations that use the name Dixie that would be forced to change their names.

Myself and others feel that Ms. Glickman is trying to seize this issue as an opportunity to self-promote her political ambitions. I may be wrong but this is my perception. At the least, she should be removed from office for her conduct and for inappropriately causing such problems within our peaceful community.

Additionally, the African-American people I know within the District's community do not have an issue with the name as the families at the Dixie's schools are not racist and nor has there been any racial practices or intent within Dixie. Racism is a non-issue within our community.

Lastly, if the proposed name change comes to a vote, I ask that the Board does not take unilateral action to vote amongst themselves. This is a community issue and should be voted and decided by the community. Since this is a divisive issue, the community deserves to vote and bring closure to this issue.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Take care - [REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School District Name

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 10:49 AM

Dear Dixie School District Board Members:

Changing the name of our School District will not have even the slightest effect on ridding our community of whatever small amount racism remains any more than the district's name "Dixie" has caused our children to become racists. In our community the name Dixie has only stood for an outstanding school district whose reputation has led many families to move here for the experiences and education their children will receive.


It is unfortunate that some people of color still feel victimized by racism. It is unfortunate that some people still harbor racist views. But changing the name of our school district will have no effect on either of those. On the contrary bowing to the name changing efforts of a few will demonstrate to our children that name calling, and disruptive behavior is an acceptable way of conduct in public, and that 150 years of work at building an outstanding reputation for educational excellence can be brushed aside by a few if they yell loud enough. On the contrary having the district board stand up against this unwarranted effort by a few will show our children that it is possible for what is right to prevail in the face of political pressure.

I urge the district board to do whatever is necessary to bring this issue to an end as rapidly as possible with the continued use of the name Dixie to identify our local school district. If that requires a vote of residents, let's have the vote as soon as possible. If the board feels they can decide the issue without a community vote, do it now and keep the name, "Dixie".

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

25 January 2019

To: Dixie Board of Trustees
380 Nova Albion Way
San Rafael, CA 94903

From: 
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Change the Name of the Dixie School District

Members of the Board of Trustees,

Thank you for embarking upon this important process and for listening to the concerns of the public.

Although this is a high-energy, emotional subject, it is paramount that the Board of Directors demonstrate the leadership necessary and that they (you) make a well rationalized, thoughtful, but timely decision.

I was honored to speak at the Board meeting on January 15th and I hope to reiterate a few of the items that I believe are important to consider.

The majority of the discussion has been about the NEED to *Change the Name*, and in some cases how to go about funding the costs associated with making the proposed change. I believe the cost issued was adequately addressed at the meeting.

As I mentioned at the Board Meeting, I have worked in the Fire Service here in Marin for over 30 years. I am a retired Fire Captain from the Marinwood Fire Department and the current Vice President of the Marin Professional Firefighters and Chair of the Political Action Committee. I am a graduate of Terra Linda High School, a homeowner/taxpayer/voter and have lived and worked within the boundaries of the Dixie School District since 1974.

My point that I attempted to make at the Board meeting was just this; the logistics involved with making the Change may seem daunting and that there are some who may be concerned about the loss of 'identity' associated with changing the name. It may be anecdotal, but I do have a lot of history and experience with this same issue and I firmly believe that it's a non-issue.

Much like the school districts, public safety is funded by taxpayer money. We have to pass Tax Measures, float Bonds, and elect our Boards in the public arena.

We also have been around a long time. The Sausalito Fire Department for example was founded in 1893 and operated continuously until 2012 at which time it *Changed its Name* to be part of the Southern Marin Fire District.

Those of us in the Fire service are very proud of our history. We have dedicated our lives to the service of the communities and put everything we have into them. Much like the dedicated teachers and staff within the School District.

But, in the name of progress, we have time and time again chosen to *Change the Names* of our agencies to meet the needs of the communities and to adapt to the new fiscal and operational realities. *At no time did these name changes get pushed out to the public for consideration; rather the Elected Officials who held office at the time recognized that it is exactly for times like these that they are chosen to make the tough decisions.*

Sausalito Fire, Alto-Richardson Fire, Tamalpais Fire, Fairfax Fire, San Anselmo Fire, Sleepy Hollow Fire, Ross Fire, Larkspur Fire, Corte Madera Fire, Twin Cities Police and the Terra Linda Fire Department have all faded into the rear view as time as passed.

They have not been forgotten, nor have they failed to provide the highest levels of service to the public and communities they represent, they simply are continuing their long traditions under a new moniker.

The students, teachers, and staff will go to bed one night under the banner of the Dixie School District and wake up the next morning under a new banner. It's just that simple.

Yes, you will need to change the names on the School Buses, just like we did to our Fire Engines and Police Cars. There will be new ID's and credentials, new stationary and envelopes, and big new fancy signs in front of the campuses just like there were at our Fire Stations. Everyone will take pictures and likely have a renewed sense of pride in whatever name is chosen. These things are all just the trappings of change and signs of progress. They should be embraced rather than used as yet another red herring to argue against the push to *Change the Name*.

I personally do not feel strongly about any of the proposed names that were submitted via petition. As a public entity I would caution against using the Skywalker name without having addressed the potential intellectual properties concerns via your legal counsel. If I had to choose one, I would like to support the name "Miller Creek School District". Miller Creek itself, as well as its tributaries, runs throughout Lucas Valley, Marinwood and Terra Linda. All of the other elementary schools funnel their students into Miller Creek Middle School. Much like having a Dixie School within the Dixie School District, the same could be done with Miller Creek.

I do strongly believe that time is of the essence. I know you are aware of the three-ring circus that this has become. The best way for everyone to move forward is for the Board to make a decision, stand by your decision, and work on ensuring the plan will be successful. Ideally the changes could be made over the summer, and when the kids return to school in the Fall they will be helping to usher in a new era and they will be writing new chapter in the history of the school district.

I know it may not feel like it at times, but you are fortunate to be in a position where you can make a real difference in the lives of the community and can positively effect the reputation of the school district and neighborhood.

Embrace it.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED] (Ret.)
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903
415-827-5576
[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie School

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 12:27 PM

My children and grandchildren have all had their first education through Dixie School, I am an immigrant and this is my country. The help they have had through this school has been exceptional. I was so sorry to hear of the proposed name change. I have always associated this Dixie School with excellence and never with racial disparity. Please keep the name of Dixie for the school.

Thank you for your consideration.


San Rafael, Ca 94903



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

What "Dixie" means to me

1 message

[REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 2:40 PM

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

Dear School Board,

When my son started attending Dixie Elementary School, the name "Dixie" sounded sweet and child-like to me. It reminded me of the word pixie. It was and remains simply the name of the district, not a reference to something else. My sense of the district comes from seeing my son's experiences going to school here. Those experiences were good.

I support keeping the name as is.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94903

[REDACTED]



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Some recent footage from previous board meeting

1 message

Alex Stadler <astadler@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 3:00 PM

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

Greetings,

It seems totally weird to have to ask this, but while you're considering the name-change please do take time to rewatch some statements made at the last board meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk9aVVUzPddgac_CMdVyq3S-w4OWQGdwZ

Thank you for your consideration,

Alex Stadler



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Petitions

1 message

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 4:28 PM

To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

To the Board of Trustee's , Dixie School District :

I would like to urge the Board to dismiss the recently filed petitions demanding the renaming of the District . I would also urge that the Board move forward with the tentative District wide election being considered for 2020 . The election would give the ENTIRE population of the District a chance to have their voices heard rather than have the decision made by groups of 15 individuals and their various name changes . I find it very troubling to think a very small group of 15 could make a change without the 14,000 other residents being heard .

I have lived in the district for 48 years and love everything that the Dixie School District has and does stand for ,

mainly an excellence in nurturing and educating it's students . What it doesn't stand for is racism and slavery . Not once in the time I've lived here has a visiting friend or relative EVER questioned the name and it's meaning but several have said , " oh , you're in the Dixie School District , I've heard that it's one of the very best " . My real estate agent repeated it over and over as she was showing us houses 48 years ago , we're very glad that we listened .

Please do not cave in to the few that have taken their fight to every corner of the globe trying to whip up support for a needless name change . Let the residents of the entire district have THEIR say in what THEIR school is named .

Sincerely ,

, San Rafael



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Re: Adding our organization as a supporter

1 message

[REDACTED] <astadtner@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 5:21 PM

To: Teri, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@changethename.net>

From: Susan Morgan <susanmorgan@gmail.com>, Teri Bleiweiss <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Hi [REDACTED],

Indeed! Welcome to this important local cause for social justice.

In order to officially sign the petition please visit www.changethename.net if you haven't already. There are some really great organizations in our midst, and we're thrilled to add Indivisible Marin (IM) to the list!

If you or anyone you know, inside or outside the district, wants to submit comments by the 4th, please use this special email they've set up: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Perhaps you could read a letter of support from yourself and/or IM on the 12th? You'll only be given 2 minutes of public comment. We're really trying to pack the gym on the 12th and the room will hold 300-400 people. We really appreciate you joining the cause and we need your help pushing this effort over the goal line! Think you could add a note in your next e-blast to the IM community? Definitely like-minds.

Your neighbor,

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

On Jan 28, 2019, at 5:09 PM, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@changethename.net> wrote:

Thank you, Susan. We are honored and grateful. I've cc'd two of our most active organizers, Teri Bleiweiss and Alex Stadtner. I encourage you to talk with Alex and Teri.

The deadline for written comments is February 4 at 3pm. We also are eager to organize the public to attend the public hearing on February 12 at 530pm at Miller Creek Middle School gym.

Can we include you in our core team emails over the next 15 days before the vote?

On Jan 28, 2019, at 3:40 PM, Susan Morgan <susanmorgan@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

We would like to add our organization, Indivisible Marin, to your list of supporters. We have many members who reside in the the district including me.

We will also send written comments to the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for all of your excellent work!

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Founder and Director
Indivisible Marin



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie

1 message

Susan Withers <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 7:03 PM

Reply-To: Susan Withers <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

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

To the Dixie School Board of Trustees,

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

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

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

Hear the people—hold the vote.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Susan Withers

[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903

Sent from Premium Email app for Hotmail



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie - A History Lesson

1 message

Alex Stodt <astodt@icloud.com>

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 7:58 PM

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

History of Dixie School District's Name

"After reviewing the historical documents compiled by Change The Name (www.changethename.net) advocates, as well as a number of supplementary sources, it is my conclusion that the organization's account and characterization of the historical origins of the Dixie School District's name are accurate."
— Chiyuma Elliott, Assistant Professor, African American Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Read Professor Elliott's full evaluation.

THE OLD DIXIE SCHOOLHOUSE FOUNDATION, A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION, STATES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS NAMED AFTER THE CONFEDERACY.

In 1972, the Dixie Schoolhouse Foundation submitted an application to the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service to get the old Dixie Schoolhouse added to the National Registry of Historical Places. The document submitted by Old Dixie Schoolhouse Foundation states that the name "Dixie" was a direct reference to the nickname given to the Confederate States of America.

In their application, they wrote, "Mrs. Leitz (Mrs. Frances Miller Leits, daughter of Bernard Miller and granddaughter of James Miller) also uncovered the origin of the school's name when she stated that her grandfather, not being a man to turn down a challenge, named the building on a dare. Marin County, in 1864, was hotly pro-Northern, and the fact that several "gentlemen" from the South helped construct the first schoolhouse prompted someone to dare James Miller to name the school "Dixie." He did. Thus Dixie opened in March of 1864."

Miller's great great grandson, Lucien Miller, confirms the origin of the name "Dixie" in an oral history archived in the California Room of the Marin County Library. Lucien Miller stated, "And [James Miller] was a democrat and there was a lot of sympathy of Irish democrats towards the South...I was glad that a few years ago there was somebody that wanted to change the name of the school because that was so outrageous."

IN THE 1860S, PEOPLE KNEW THAT THE DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS NAMED AFTER THE CONFEDERACY.

Even a month after the founding of the Dixie School District, people recognized the name "Dixie" was a direct reference to the pro-slavery south and that the name was "ominous." In the December 11, 1863 edition of the *Red Bluff Independent*, the newspaper wrote the following in response to the establishment of the Dixie School District:

"It is supposed, by the ominous name, that the young ideas are here to be "trained how to shoot" you. The most surprising thing about this name is, that the inhabitants of such a district should ever desire the establishment of such a radical thing as a school. Probably the effects of association with civilized people in this State."

THE DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT AREA WAS A DEMOCRATIC PRO-CONFEDERATE STRONGHOLD DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

An article in the *Marin Journal* newspaper from June 4, 1891 states, "The precinct or district itself (current area that includes the Dixie School District) has always been a Democratic stronghold, at some of the elections the entire vote polled being Democratic. During wartimes the district was called Dixie by the Republicans in derision, and the name clung to it ever since."

During the Civil War, the Democratic Party was pro-slavery. The Democratic Party supported racial segregation and worse after the Civil War. The Republican Party at that time was the party of Lincoln, and anti-slavery.

Lincoln won the 1860 and 1864 presidential elections as a Republican. The voters who lived in the precincts in and around the Dixie School District voted for the pro-slavery Democratic presidential candidates, Breckinridge in 1860 and McLellan in 1864.

James Miller's great great grandson stated in his oral history that James Miller was a Democrat and, "he always had Southern sympathies." William J. Miller, James's eldest son, was a leader of the Democratic Party Committee in Marin. In 1869, William J. Miller was elected to the California State Assembly as a Democrat to represent the 10th district. Prior to Miller's election, Assemblymember A.C. McAlister represented the district as a member of the Democratic Party.

TODAY, DIXIE IS A SYNONYM FOR THE CONFEDERATE SOUTH.

Song for a Dark Girl by Langston Hughes

Way Down South in Dixie
(Break the heart of me)
They hung my black young lover
To a cross roads tree.

Way Down South in Dixie
(Bruised body high in air)
I asked the white Lord Jesus
What was the use of prayer.

Way Down South in Dixie
(Break the heart of me)
Love is a naked shadow
On a gnarled and naked tree.

One Way Ticket by Langston Hughes

I pick up my life, And take it with me,
And I put it down in Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Scranton,
Any place that is North and East, And not Dixie.

I pick up my life And take it on the train,
To Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Seattle, Oakland, Salt Lake
Any place that is North and West, And not South.

I am fed up With Jim Crow laws,
People who are cruel And afraid, Who lynch and run,
Who are scared of me And me of them
I pick up my life And take it away On a one-way ticket
Gone up North Gone out West Gone!

THE STRUGGLE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR 29 YEARS.

Bruce Anderson, a Marinwood resident, started asking questions about the Dixie name in 1989 on the first day of school for his child at Dixie Elementary School. In 1997, Kerry Peirson, former Chair of the Marin Human Rights Commission and former Marin Community Foundation trustee, launched the community campaign when he testified on behalf of a name change at a Dixie School Board meeting. He was called a “gorilla” inside the boardroom. He says it was one of the most terrifying nights of his life.

NAME CHANGE ADVOCATES OFFERED TO PAY FOR THE NAME CHANGE IN 2003.

In 2003, then Dixie School Board Trustee Karen Crockett and a group of parents, proposed a new district name. The cost was estimated to be \$7,500. A nonprofit organization sent a check to the Superintendent to cover 100% of the expenses related to the name change. We expect the updated cost information to be presented at a public meeting of the Dixie School District Board of Trustees in October or November 2018.

“What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander.”

— Elie Wiesel, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust Survivor

2 attachments



CElliott-DixieSchoolDistNameHistEval-2018.pdf
145K



2018-10_Dixie IJ..docx
139K

By Alex Stadtner, District Parent, Published in Marin IJ, Fall of 2018:

I was in middle school in Texas when I first learned about “Dixie.” As a white middle-schooler in Austin I was mostly shielded from overt racism. One day on a family vacation outside of town I saw a sign with a confederate flag that read, “Welcome to Dixie, don’t let the sun set on your black ass!” I first thought it a very funny sign. But my parents’ tone quickly changed and they took the opportunity to educate me about the history of slavery and oppression in southern states.

In high school there were some racist kids for sure. They wore little rebel flags on their hats and backpacks, and some would brag about beating up gays and minorities. These kids weren’t to be messed with. They were to be feared - especially for kids of color.

Around the time the Rodney King tapes were released, or maybe it was when the officers were acquitted, I have a vivid memory of these same bullies jumping a black kid. When he was bloodied and on the ground one sneered, “this is Dixie, not Africa!” As the bullies fled the scene I was left with a pit in my stomach.

When you strip it down to its essence I believe this fundamentally an issue of racial justice. I agree with Superintendent Dr. Yamashiro, “Dixie” has the direct connotation of the confederate south.

That same ache resurfaced twice recently. One morning driving through our neighborhood I saw signs that read “Keep Dixie, Dixie.” To me it was a dagger in the heart of inclusion and welcoming spirit. A symbol of racism and division popping up across my neighborhood. Gulp.

That evening at a Dixie School Board meeting I got another dose. Many spoke about how “Dixie” symbolized racism, segregation, and hate. One black resident said that seeing the signs felt to him like burning a cross on his front lawn, and as he walked back to his seat a sign was aggressively waved in his face. Ugh.

The Mayor of San Rafael spoke eloquently about why he believes the name should change, as did previous school board members, parents, a student, and a heart-wrenched teacher.

On the other side arguments mainly circled around allocation of staff time and district dollars. At present, the two biggest concerns are a) the name itself is extraordinarily offensive, and b) some don’t want the District to spend “a single penny on this stupid issue.”

The board has discussed a non-binding resolution for a community-wide election in 2020. This unfunded, can-kicking measure would be a lose-lose for our community. Bringing our local history of institutional racism and segregation into the national spotlight, and building to a crescendo of division on Super Tuesday. Left to public polling, Dixieland might still have segregated schools today. If voters didn't want to change the name, it would still hurt people - perhaps even more - after a bitter election. And change advocates would continue their efforts requiring time from district staff.

While some believe it unfair and symbolic of the lack of leadership from the District Board, a workable compromise may be for supporters to raise a portion of the money necessary to change the name(s). This can be achieved without an expensive and contentious community-wide vote.

Join me on December 15th, 12-4pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin, for a petition signing party! All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Bring your favorite new name and enjoy potluck cookies!

I pray the Board will exercise their powers responsibly and bring this ugly debate to a speedy resolution. Like that fateful car ride in Texas, this is a teachable moment. Recall, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Let it not be too much longer here, please.



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September 23, 2018

Assessment of Name History: Dixie School District, San Rafael, California

After reviewing the historical documents compiled by Change The Name (www.changethename.net) advocates, as well as a number of supplementary sources, it is my conclusion that the organization's account and characterization of the historical origins of the Dixie School District's name are accurate. Following are my brief descriptions and assessment of key documents, as well as two interpretative elaborations about political party membership and local perceptions of partisan speech in the 1860s.

On November 28, 1863, during the height of the Civil War, alongside local real estate transactions, the *Marin County Tocsin* formally recorded the school district's establishment, location, and name "Dixie"—decisions made under the aegis of T. J. Ables (Superintendent of Schools), and JAS Dixon, D. Olds, and J. W. Buffington (Board of Supervisors).¹ The claim that the name "Dixie" was understood by local community members to signal support for the Confederacy in the early 1860s is corroborated by several reliable period sources. When the *Marin County Tocsin* (a paper also published under the name *Marin County Journal*) reprinted the anthem "Dixie" on its front page on April 27, 1861, the editors made overt reference to the fact that the song was the Confederacy's equivalent to "Yankee Doodle." This is strong evidence that the song "Dixie" was understood by Marin County residents to endorse the Confederacy and its secession plan. When, two years later, the staff of the *Red Bluff Independent* learned of the Marin School District's choice to name itself Dixie, their editors' disgust was palpable:

It is supposed, by the ominous name, that the young ideals are here to be "trained how to shoot" you. The most surprising thing about this name is, that the inhabitants of such a district should ever desire the establishment of such a radical thing as a school. Probably the effect of association with civilized people in this State.²

The first elaboration I want to offer to Change The Name's historical account concerns party affiliation and school district naming; simply offering local Democratic versus Republican party membership in the 1860s does not adequately capture the ideological diversity of the community. That diversity is relevant in assessing the meaning and reception of the school district's name. Many Democrats in both the American South and the North opposed secession, as the following January 4, 1861 letter from G. Mason Graham to William Tecumseh Sherman illustrates:

I feel as confident as I possibly can of any event not yet transpired, that an ordinance of secession will be rushed through the convention with breathless haste. The tone of the Louisiana *Democrat* ever since the presidential election has satisfied me of that—its last issue confirms it. Less than four weeks ago I proclaimed from the steps of the post-office, to an unusually large crowd awaiting the opening of the mail, that 'I stood by the Union, that secession was treason,' and no man in the crowd opened his mouth affirmatively or

negatively, although I saw men there—lifelong Democrats, too—who, I knew, felt and thought as I did about it.³

Graham's letter suggests that people were carefully reading the tone of newspapers, as well as their explicit content; tone was important because many people were remaining publicly silent about their views on the secession issue. Graham understood explicitly partisan political speech to be a bold (even perilous) choice in many localities; the period content of California newspapers (particularly in and around Marin County) suggest that many editors agreed with this assessment.

Using the term "Dixie" in the name of a public institution in early 1860s America was not a simple statement of support for the Democratic party; it was reasonably and broadly construed to be an endorsement of secession. In his memoirs, Sherman was more generous than the Red Bluff editors in characterizing the partisan political speech of cadets (sometimes termed "seminarians") at the Louisiana military academy where he taught after leaving California, in November of 1860:

The election of Mr. Lincoln fell upon us all like a clap of thunder. People saw and felt that the South had threatened so long that, if she quietly submitted, the question of slavery in the Territories was at an end forever....At our seminary the order of exercises went along with the regularity of the seasons. Once a week, I had the older cadets to practice reading, reciting, and elocution, and noticed that their selections were from Calhoun, Yancey, and other Southern speakers, all treating the defense of their slaves and their home institutions as the very highest duty of the patriot. Among boys this was to be expected; and among the members of our board, though most of them declaimed against politicians generally, and especially abolitionists, as pests, yet there was a growing feeling that danger was in the wind.⁴

In Sherman's view, such vocal demonstrations of Confederate loyalty were understandable in 1860 only because of the proximate "shock" of the election, and the fact the speakers were immature "boys." He clearly would have considered the same kind of speech from seasoned politicians, or other community leaders, as both uncouth and treasonous—as did the editors of the Red Bluff newspaper, who thought the Marin School District's choice of name was outrageous enough to merit comment and condemnation.⁵

The second elaboration I would like to offer concerns more local public perceptions of politically partisan speech. In the same issue of the *Marin County Tocsin* that covered the aftermath of the 1861 political duel fought in San Rafael between politicians Charles W. Piercy and Daniel Showalter—a fatal conflict resulting what they deemed irreconcilable differences related to the secession question—was a re-printed editorial attributed to another publication (the *Tribune*):

An earnest secessionist, whether of the North or of the South, may be very blind, but he is not necessarily a bad man. And, wrong-headed as we may deem him, we insist on his perfect right to his own opinion, and to pursue a peaceable course of action in open consistency therewith....He must refrain from shooting if he has any decided objection to being shot, and restrict himself to *speaking* daggers if he prefer that the friends of the Union should not use them.⁶

In an era, and locality, in which political differences could (and did) cause at least one fight to the death, I believe that the Marin County community accepted the "speaking dagger" of the Dixie School District name because, in context, rhetorical violence seemed preferable to physical

confrontation. The newspaper made its position condemning physical violence clear, pointing out (ironically) the dubious distinction such incidents conferred on the community: “another ‘affair of honor’ is on the tapis—arising out of the Shoawalter-Piercy duel. Of course Marin will have the honor of being the place where they will settle their difficulties.”⁷ On the front page of that same issue of the paper (which included war news about troop movements, accounts of government seizure of Confederate ships, and news about the real and perceived loyalties of African Americans in New Orleans and Native American tribes), the editors printed a long, patriotic poem about the American flag, attributed to a fourteen year old author, Mary Jane Cunningham.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties continued to hold local meetings (as indicated by 1860s announcements in the *Marin County Tocsin*), and members of both parties continued to participate actively in California civic life. The extant historical sources suggest that, in 1860 and 1861, leaders in Marin County took and maintained the position that a wide range of political speech—even virulent speech—was the best option for the community, because it could help preserve the peace.⁸ The 1863 choice of the highly politicized (and, for the majority of Californians, likely offensive) name “Dixie” for the newly- formed school district suggests that the community maintained that position throughout the Civil War years.⁹

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chiyuma Elliott". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Chiyuma Elliott
Assistant Professor, African American Studies

¹ *Marin County Tocsin*, November 28, 1863. The names of the local officials with supervisory authority for the newly created school district were regularly listed on the newspaper’s front page masthead.

² *Red Bluff Independent*, December 11, 1863, Vol. 4, No. 36.

³ Walter L. Fleming, ed. *General W. T. Sherman as College President: A Collection of Letters* (Cleveland: Walter H. Clark Company, 1912), 326.

⁴ William T. Sherman, *Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman, Written By Himself*, Vol. 1 (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1891), 152.

⁵ The *Red Bluff Independent*, July 21, 1864, Vol. 4, No. 100, reported the following incident about public performance of the song “Dixie” under the heading “A FRANK TRAITOR”: “At Grass Valley, on Wednesday last, says the Gazette, during a wrestling match, the band played John Brown[.] As the music ceased, Col. Wm. Watt, formerly a Senator in the State Legislature from this county, asked in a loud voice whether there were any representatives of John Brown present[.] Receiving no reply, he asked the band to play Dixie, with which request they complied. Col. Watt then arose and said, ‘Boys, let’s give three cheers for Dixie!’ and immediately commenced shouting and

swinging his hat. A few others joined him in his cheers for Dixie, but the call was feebly responded to, many Copperheads refusing to follow the Colonel's example."

⁶ *Marin County Tocsin*, June 1, 1861, Vol. 1, No. 11. Page 1.

⁷ *Marin County Tocsin*, June 1, 1861, Vol. 1, No. 11. Page 2.

⁸ During this era, an occasional California citizen voiced written support for the continued use of terminology associated with the Confederacy. An anonymous editorial in the September 10, 1864 *Sonoma Democrat* (Vol. 7, No. 48) signed by "ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL" mocked a church whose leadership no longer wanted to use the word "South" in its name: "Diqui instead of Dixie or South; or some word may be coined for the purpose, anything to avoid using the objectionable word South or Southern.— The Southerners arc not only to be *exterminated*, but every *word* that would remind us that ever such beings existed, is to be dropped out of our language."

⁹ The negative associations with "Dixie" were significant and enduring enough that a June 4, 1891 writer for *The Marin Journal* felt it necessary to offer an account of how such a School District name came to be: "During war-times the district was called Dixie by the Republicans in derision, and the name clung to it ever since."

California State Senate

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



Brad Honsberger, President
Dixie School District
380 Nova Albion Way
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear President ~~Honsberger~~ and Trustees:

Thanks in very large part to your hard work and commitment to the children and their families in your community, Dixie School District has justifiably earned an outstanding reputation for the high quality of its instruction and the exemplary performance of its students. It's safe to say that many people choose to live in the Dixie School District so that their children are able to benefit from the results-driven education advanced by the district and its outstanding team of educators. That is why it is so distressing that such a positive image of the district is being tarnished by the current controversy surrounding its name.

Being a former school board member myself, I greatly respect your board's authority. I have made it a point to rarely involve myself in local school district issues in any of the seven Northern California Counties I am honored to represent, but I believe this issue is different.

Whatever the true origins of the name of the school district, there is no question that "Dixie" is synonymous not just with the Southern Confederacy, but also with racism and deep psychic pain. For many people, the name "Dixie" symbolizes oppression, degradation and intolerance. The word rose from one of the darkest periods in our nation's history, one with which we have yet to fully come to terms.

Much of the anger and divisiveness now reflected in the debate over changing the name of the Dixie School District mirrors the anger and divisiveness taking place nationally over the rise of white nationalism.

I know that you and our Board did not originally name the district. You inherited the name from the 1860s. That said, you now have an opportunity to take action on what should have been done years ago.

Until your Board advances a name change, this conflict will not go away. The animosity and resentment will stay center stage and the first thing people will be talking about when the Dixie School District is mentioned will not be the exceptional quality of the instruction children receive, but rather the racist origins of the name. No matter if folks like it or not, the name Dixie can't stand in modern America and I urge you and your board to proactively initiate a name change in the coming months.

I am deeply appreciative of your service and your time to review this correspondence. I'll be following up with this letter to have a further discussion on this topic.

Warmest regards,

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator

*I look forward to your
consideration.*

JARED HUFFMAN
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, POWER, AND OCEANS -- RANKING MEMBER
FEDERAL LANDS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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December 10, 2018

Brad Honsberger, President
Dixie School District
380 Nova Albion Way
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Trustees:

Thank you for your public service and leadership in overseeing a school district that is exemplary in so many ways. I've enjoyed visiting your schools over the years, and I share your pride in the high standards and excellent education that we have come to associate with this district. With these positive associations in mind, and hopefully as a trusted partner of the district, I write to urge you to do something that frankly should have been done many years ago: change the district name.

I recognize this is a local decision that is yours to make, not mine. I represent dozens of school districts and make it a point not to weigh in on local school board issues generally. But having the name "Dixie" connotes -- intentionally or not -- a dark and hateful part of our nation's history that offends many people in our community and beyond. For that reason, this is more than just a local issue. That is why, as your Congressman, as a San Rafael public schools parent, and as a steadfast supporter of our schools, I feel compelled to express my views.

We cannot separate this issue from the broader context of our country's struggles with racism, including the ugly resurgence of neo-Confederates and white nationalists who are trying to take us backward after decades of progress on civil rights, equality, and ethnic and religious tolerance. As you may know, I am a former civil rights lawyer and I have worked in Congress to end some of the hateful vestiges of the Confederacy that have persisted into modern times, including Confederate monuments, public displays of the Confederate battle flag, sales of Confederate memorabilia at National Parks, and more. Our nation's dark history and current struggles with racism compels us to be honest about the hateful origins of these symbols and to acknowledge that whatever revisionist nostalgia some may attach to them, they are rooted in racism and deeply offensive to many people.

Listening to the spirited, sometimes vitriolic local debate over the provenance and original meaning of the name "Dixie," it seems that we're missing the bigger point. We will surely never know whether James Miller meant "Dixie" to be an homage to the Confederacy, a bit of whimsy from a lost bet with confederate sympathizers, a tribute to a Miwok woman he may have known, or something else. There is no clear, documented connection to anything we can identify as meaningful to our history, environment, culture or values, and that leaves us scratching our heads all these years later about the anachronism of a Marin County school district called "Dixie." But balanced against Mr. Miller's unknowable intent, we have the undeniable reality that many people are confused, offended, and divided by the district's continuing use of the notorious nickname of the Confederacy. This cloud of controversy will linger over the district until the name is changed, with negative ramifications for students, current and potential staff, and for building a reputation for educational excellence, tolerance, and inclusion.

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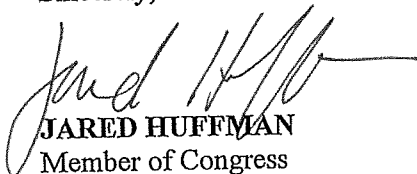
December 10, 2018
Letter to Dixie School District Trustees
Page 2

My hope is that under your leadership, the board will take the long overdue step of committing to a name change and then bring the community together in a forward-looking, public process to identify a new name that actually makes sense and doesn't offend people. It could be a tribute to the founder of the district, a great educator or alumnus from the district, a name that directly honors the Miwok people who originally lived here, or something else that the community can understand and be proud of. Whatever name you ultimately choose, the process of bringing people together in a respectful, forward-looking manner is important to ending this painful controversy and moving forward toward the excellent, unsullied reputation your district deserves.

Finally, I hope you will not defer this decision. The suggestion of a non-binding advisory election, even if it could be funded and actually held, is not a solution. At the end of that costly and divisive process, the decision will still be in your hands. Nor will a local advisory vote put to rest the controversy and damage that comes from choosing to continue using the "Dixie" name; if anything, a local advisory vote that embraced the name "Dixie" would create an even bigger and darker cloud over the district. It's time for everyone to move on. You have the burden and responsibility of making what may temporarily be a hard decision. But this is also a unique opportunity to usher in a positive, unifying new chapter for the children, families, and educators of this great school district.

Thank you for your consideration, and please call on me if I can be of assistance going forward.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



Thomas Peters, Ph.D.
President & Chief Executive Officer

December 10, 2018

Brad Honsberger, President, and Members of the Board
Dixie School District
380 Nova Albion Way
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Mr. Honsberger and Members of the Board:

As a 25-year resident of the Dixie School District, I proudly went to the polls for every election affecting the District, be it selection of board members or support for local tax measures. It was a personal privilege to regularly endorse the dedication of the District's board, staff and faculty to the high level of quality education provided over the years to thousands of young students.

It is with that history and pride in the District that I write to urge that you seize this moment of opportunity: change the name of the District.

The plain fact is that in today's American cultural and linguistic context, the predominant connotations of the word "Dixie" evoke not only rebellion and treason, but pain and terror.

No amount of local interpretation of diary entries, historical footnotes, genealogical searches or nuances of irony or humor can override this reality. While it may not be so for some, the evidence is clear that to many millions of Americans, particularly of course to African Americans, the titles and symbols of the "Confederacy" stand, first and foremost, for humiliation, degradation and threat.

What lies before your Board is a golden opportunity to exercise principled community leadership. By recognizing that the time has come for a new name, the Board can declare that the enduring hallmark of the District is its dual commitment to quality education and a welcoming spirit, openly offered for all youngsters and all families.

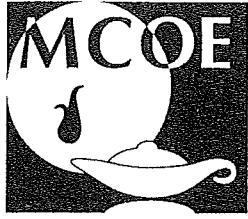
As it has been in the great moments of this nation's civil rights progress, it is the clarion call of public leadership, especially in times of division and debate, that fosters a pattern of respect and clarifies the template of equity.

Your Board stands at just such a moment. No poll or plebiscite can replace the courage of conviction that elected leaders can, and on some occasions must, exercise. By selecting a more appropriate and inclusive name, you would send a powerful and poignant message both to the whole community and to your young students, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Peters".

Thomas Peters, Ph.D.
President and CEO



MARIN COUNTY

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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SAN RAFAEL, CA 94913-4925
marincoe@marinschools.org

MARY JANE BURKE
MARIN COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

(415) 472-4110
FAX (415) 491-6625

December 14, 2018

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

Dear President Honsberger and Members of the Board,

As an elected official charged with serving the students of Marin County for the past 24 years, I hold a deep respect for the kinds of challenges faced by school board members who volunteer their time in public service to their local school district. I recognize that you take your role seriously and strive to make decisions that are in the best interests of the students and families you serve. Having had the opportunity myself to make the kinds of decisions that impact people from a variety of backgrounds and beliefs, I have come to learn that there are times when we must break from tradition, from our comfort zone, to acknowledge new perspectives. This is one of those times for the Dixie School Board, it is time to change the name.

Since the birth of our nation, our society has been afflicted by issues of civil rights in a variety of forms. While our culture has come a long way in recognizing that people of different races, genders, religions, sexuality and creeds are in fact, "just people," like you and me, there are reminders of our past that are disrespectful and do not promote a forward-thinking culture. Across the nation, these kinds of symbols and titles are being changed to acknowledge a more positive, enlightened society. While some may be against the "historic" loss that this change brings, many feel empowered by the promise of a more positive future.

In my tenure as the Marin County Superintendent of Schools, I have witnessed the divisiveness caused by the Dixie name. Over the past twenty years, the issue has come to the forefront at least four times, rehashing the same concerns and distracting the District from its core work of serving students. While past efforts to change the name to one that more appropriately represents the students and local community have been set aside, I urge the Board to exercise its duty, as bestowed upon you by the electorate, and take action without incurring the additional expense of an election. An election would only serve to prolong the contentious debate that has driven a wedge into this community for too long. It is time for the community to move forward.

I have called Marin County my home for over 40 years. I have spent my career in an office that resides within the boundaries of the Dixie School District. My late husband, Larry Lyon, proudly served as the

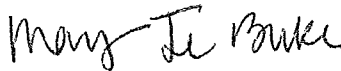
Superintendent of the Dixie School District until his death. My children attended Dixie schools. I understand the attachment to a name, to a history, to a legacy of quality educational programs.

But I ask the Board to consider if the name "Dixie" is what makes this community special; is it what drives the success of our students? Is such a name predicated on what binds our community and its strong belief that a child's success hinges on providing a caring, nurturing environment that supports not only academic success but also the social emotional needs of our children? I suggest not.

I assure you that changing the name will not compromise the opportunities that will help our students succeed in school and in life. This legacy will continue to flourish. In fact, this is an opportunity to teach our children about the history of the Dixie name, the meaning and its cultural significance. This is an opportunity for our students to participate in a cultural shift, one they can be proud of.

It is also an opportunity for our community to practice civil discourse. As with any change, there will be people for and against it. As a Board, you have an opportunity, a duty, to set the tone for a positive dialogue. I encourage you to rise to the occasion by modeling respectful dialogue, listening thoughtfully and leading with integrity. We must remember, the children are watching.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jane Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Burke" clearly distinguishable.

Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Superintendent of Schools



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Dixie is not a symbol of academic excellence to all of God's children...

1 message

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 8:09 PM

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

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2017/08/17/worshipping-the-confederacy-is-about-white-supremacy-even-the-nazis-thought-so/?utm_term=.456288046f61

"The Nazi order praised the Old South, seeing in Dixie a society that exalted white leadership and kept African Americans on the lowest rungs of the social order. Recognizing this, civil rights activists have worked for over 80 years to expose those links and to show how the veneration of the Old South can provide a nurturing climate for hateful, fascist ideologies. Revealing the deep connections between Nazi and Confederate beliefs became essential to proving that Southern racial practices were, in fact, clearly antithetical to American values like democracy and equality."



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Preserve the name "Dixie"

1 message

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 9:04 PM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <chipmnm18@yahoo.com>
to: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Correction:

Friends and Dixie school board members.... my earlier submission may have been excluded due to incomplete residence address. I am at [REDACTED] RAFAEL and have been here for 40 plus years.

And I urge you to listen to your constituents verses negative outside influences. In fact, is there some law that precludes you from insisting that comments at public meetings are allowable from legal residents of the District only? Frankly, I was appalled to see how much time you've granted Noah Griffin and his malcontents at Board meetings!


[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Drive in [REDACTED] Hills
San Rafael



Comment on petitions <commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org>

Change the Name

1 message


To: commentonpetitions@dixieschooldistrict.org

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 10:41 PM

Dear Dixie School Board:

As a resident of the Dixie Elementary School District, I am writing in support of changing the name. It seems so easy to know what the right thing to do is when the controversy over confederate monuments, flags and symbols is taking place in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama or Arkansas, but when it happens in our own back yard then suddenly we're no longer sure. Regardless of the history of how the Dixie School District was named, "Dixie" has and always will be associated with the South, slavery, the Ku Klux Klan, cross burnings and lynchings. It has absolutely no connection or relevance to Marin or the area in which it's located and if we don't change the name, the controversy will never be put to rest.

I support renaming the school either Live Oak Elementary School District, Live Oak Valley School Elementary District or Oak Valley Elementary School District.


1000
San
6637