

DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

380 Nova Albion Way
San Rafael, CA 94903

Unadopted Board Minutes

January 15, 2019

PLACE AND DATE	Dixie School District, 380 Nova Albion Way, San Rafael, CA 94903 Meeting on Tuesday, January 15 , 2019
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Board President Brad Honsberger at 4:30 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Brad Honsberger, President Alissa Chacko, Vice President Brooks Nguyen Clerk Marnie Glickman, Trustee Megan Hutchinson, Trustee
MEMBERS ABSENT	None
ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT	Jason Yamashiro, Superintendent Tracy Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Ed Services Tanya Michel, Chief Business Official
APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA	On a motion by Ms. Nguyen, seconded by Ms. Chacko, the Trustees approved the closed session agenda. Vote: 5-0. (Chacko, Honsberger, Glickman, Nguyen, Hutchinson)
PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ON THE CLOSED SESSION AGENDA	None
RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER AND/OR TAKE ACTION UPON ANY ITEM ON THE CLOSED SESSION AGENDA	Gov. Code Section 54957.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS District Designated Representative: Superintendent Employee Organizations: All Employee Groups Gov. Code Section 54957: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION Title: Superintendent
RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION	Mr. Honsberger reconvened the meeting to open session at 6:00 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE /PATRIOTIC SALUTE	The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION	None

APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA Mr. Honsberger clarifies that this is a meeting of the school board. He goes on to explain that public comment on items not on the agenda will be handled at the end of the agenda. He explained that whether to change the name of the district is not on the agenda. He asks that public comments please be kept to items on the open session agenda. Items 5.2 and 5.3 have to do with specific things about the name change process. Ms. Glickman says that she thinks it is important to give the public a chance to speak. She moves that we move agenda item 8.1 to immediately after 5.1. Ms. Nguyen seconds. Ms. Chacko explains that our board meetings have always ended with public comment not on the agenda so that the board has time to conduct board business. Mr. Honsberger confirms that it has been common practice for the board to end with public comment on items not specified on the agenda. Ms. Nguyen says that she is concerned with her own distraction level. Ms. Hutchinson agrees with Ms. Nguyen. Board Votes 5:0 in favor of placing item 8.1 after 5.1.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS They were not present when this item came up on the agenda. It was agreed that the awards would be given later on in the agenda when the students arrived

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS IN THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA #1 I was happy to see a sign that says nothing can be changed unless it is faced. We need to come up with a process that brings the community together. We brought petitions this morning but we need a good process. It appears that \$18,282 is the minimum cost for a name change. I hear a rumor that MCF will pay for the costs of the name change. So the cost element is gone. All that is in front of you is a racist name.

#2 The process for this is so important. Slow down. Take time. Form a subcommittee. Have several meetings just to focus. Some names are offensive.

#3A lot of opposition to changing the name is the cost. I totally agree that costs should be focused on the kids. It seems the last time the costs came up it was less. Next time it will be more. Take care of the budget. It looks like MCF has really come through.

#4 Reads letter from Marin Community Foundation (MCF) stating that it will cover approximately \$20,000 for the name change.

Ms. Treewater, principal of Miller Creek Middle School, introduces Malhar Dev 3rd place Marin County Spelling Bee Winner. Malhar is given a certificate in recognition.

#5 Speaker says he is a parent and a city council member. He agrees that

the process has been lacking and community engagement has been lacking. He is concerned that the costs for the name change will exponentially increase. He doesn't believe we have taken the process for researching the costs as seriously as needed.

#6District dad says he thinks a true cost benefit analysis of the name change is crucial. He thinks the analysis should be distributed to the community so they can understand the decisions made by the board.

#7Suggests one way to offset costs is to get volunteers

#8Asks board to provide a facilitator for productive dialogue at the proposed community meeting. She feels community is fractured and needs a way forward. She suggests courageous conversations.

#9Urges reconsideration of advisory vote. She says the community can't wait that long and she doesn't think this kind of issue is appropriate for a vote. She suggests there are less expensive ways to gauge the pulse of the community. She says that as a board, it is important to decide. It's not about what a majority of the community wants.

#10Says that he thinks if it takes a while to make the changes (from the name change) that's ok.

#11 Says that one of the arguments he has heard is how much work the name change will be. He says he has worked 30 years in fire and many of the fire stations don't exist anymore. He says little things work out quickly.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVAL BY A SINGLE
MOTION

On a motion by Ms. Glickman, Seconded by Ms. Nguyen the Trustees approved the consent agenda items. Vote: 5:0 (Honsberger, Glickman Chacko, Nguyen, Hutchinson)

Items on the Consent Agenda:

Minutes of December 11th, 2018

Consideration of Approval for Staff to File Notice of Exemption for Miller Creek Modernization Project

Consideration of Ratification of the Agreement for the District's Measure C Miller Creek Modernization – Purchase of Modular Buildings Project

Classified Personnel: New Hires and Leaves

Disposal of Surplus Property

Certification by the Board of Monthly Payroll Order and Bills

ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND SPECIAL ITEMS
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Yamashiro shared his appreciation for the heroes that cover classes during the rainy season. He said that it is not easy to have all of that young energy indoors. People do a wonderful job of supporting the students. Dr. Yamashiro shared a few Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quotes in honor of his birthday.

Ms. Glickman says that the school district has received the petitions and

asks if the proposed names can be read. Dr. Yamashiro says that can be addressed as part of the petition process discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON
ITEMS NOT SPECIFIED
ON THE AGENDA

Speaker#1 Shares that she believes a school name is not more important than people's feelings.

Speaker #2 Shares that she feels the name Dixie means confederacy. Says that you don't have to know why it is offensive to someone to know it's offensive. Supports change.

Speaker #3 Says that slavery was legal when the school was named. He thinks the district is not diverse. In order to be inclusive the board must listen to minority voices.

Speaker #4 says that she is from Georgia. Dixie is on the list of ugly words. In favor of name change

#5 Says he is not sure why this is an issue. He is in favor of the name change

#6 Concerned that if district can't deal with this issue it will have trouble dealing with the issues her daughter faces. In favor of name change.

#7 Teacher of the school district. She says there is not one black teacher in the district. She says she is one of very few teachers of color. She is reading "White Fragility" to her class. She read an excerpt of White Fragility to the board.

#8 Feels she can no longer remain silent. She has no doubt of what is best. She thinks we should find a name that makes everyone feel safe and included.

#9 Says she fully supports name change. Says she feels the name Dixie represents racial suffering,

#10 A student speaker says she feels ashamed of her school name.

#11 Says he sees a lot of ad hominem name throwing.

#12 Says that since MCF has agreed to pay for the name change, cost is off the table. Even if it costs more than initial estimates, MCF gives away \$50million and he thinks they feel this is an important issue.

#13 Says he is in favor of the name change

#14 Says she is in support of the name change.

#15 Says she is in favor of the name change.

#16 In favor of the name change

#17 Says it is not fair, equitable or loving to ask students of color to attend a school with a racist name.

#18 Says we know better. In favor of the name change

#19 Says he has seen some horribly racist things on NextDoor. He said he'd like to enlighten the community on how far behind they are on this very important issue.

#20 Says that social justice is the most important thing our children will see in their lifetimes.

#21 Says everyone should take a step back and look at the process. He said that some will be happy with the decision the board makes and some will not. He says he is not sure the conversation is inclusive of all people at this moment.

#22 She said she is a geriatric psychologist. She has treated many people with trauma who fled the Dixie south. She said that the name Dixie is

not kind for people who have suffered in the south and live here now.

#23 She said that MLK had a vision of a just society. She believes that all of our children deserve safety.

#24 He said that none of the people in the room named the district Dixie.

But we name it Dixie by not changing it when given the opportunity.

#25 In favor of a name change

#26 Says that words matter and the district needs to model words.

#27 Says that believing in ghosts doesn't make them real. He says that there are 8,000 women of color named Dixie in the US.

#28 Says that no matter what name the board chooses there will be someone who will take offense.

#29 Says he is the father of three mixed race children and has had to leave because of what has gone on in the district. In favor of name change

#30 Says he thinks a name change would be great.

#31 Says she supports the name change. She says that she thinks the district air has been clouded by rivalry.

#32 Says she is in favor of a name change.

#33 She says that women change their last names all the time and it's not a problem.

#34 Asks the board, "What would Martin Luther King do if he were here?" In favor of the name change.

#35 Says that she believes the world around us has changed. Wishes the board courage to make the change.

#36 Says he supports the change

#37 She says she came from Poland and had no idea what Dixie meant until BA educated her on the topic. She believes that if a name is associated with oppression it has to go.

#38 Asks board to change the name.

#39 Is in favor of a name change

#40 Finished reading one of the previous speaker's letters

#41 Says she thinks it's important to change the name

#42 Says he is in favor of name change

8:15 Ms. Nguyen motions for a 5 minute break

Ms. Glickman seconds

The board takes a 5 minute break

8:20 Mr. Honsberger calls the meeting back into session

REVIEW OF POSSIBLE NAME CHANGE COSTS

Dr. Yamashiro explains that the costs included in the presentation are estimates however they are as close to accurate as possible. There is some discussion around parcel tax. Ms. Michels says that parcel taxes are very difficult to estimate because of exemptions. Ms. Chacko asks for another report with more detail. Mr. Honsberger agreed that he would like a breakdown of more detail. Ms. Nguyen asks about the costs of legal paperwork. Mr. Martinez says that his legal firm can either write things up or review what district staff puts together. He said that asking the attorney to write up documents will cost more. Mr. Honsberger says he would like a breakdown of the detail. Dr. Yamashiro asks for clarification about how they would like the district to do that. Ms. Glickman says the Board needs to make this decision in process. Ms.

Chacko says she would like that item to be agendaized. Ms. Nguyen agreed.

DISCUSSION OF ACTION
REGARDING THE
PROCESSING OF
PETITION(S) FOR
POTENTIAL DISTRICT
NAME CHANGE

Ms. Glickman asks to have the petition names read again. Dr. Yamashiro reminds that the petition names were received after the agenda was created. Ms. Glickman asks how many names there were. Dr. Yamashiro answers 13. Ms. Glickman asks when the petition names will be shared. Ms. Chacko says we should post the petitions on line. Mr. Honsberger says that discussion the petition names before the signatures are validated by the county is premature. Ms. Nguyen asks when the timeline starts with the petitions with regard to necessary action. Mr. Martinez attorney with Lozano Smith answers that there is no robust guideline. Once the petition is submitted the timeline is triggered; today is day 0 tomorrow is day 1. The board is prohibited from taking action for 10 days. Mr. Martinez says there is no legal prohibition from publishing the petitions. Dr. Yamashiro says that the petition signatures will need to be verified with the county of Marin. Mr. Martinez says he believes Dr. Yamashiro is authorized to deliver the petitions to the county. Mr. Honsberger says he authorizes Dr. Yamashiro to drop off petitions. Ms. Glickman recommends the district holds 4 public hearings at each school site. Mr. Honsberger says that after the public hearing, the board is required to make a decision. Therefore, there will be one public hearing. Mr. Martinez confirms that is this is the correct process. Ms. Glickman says she is interested in having a conversation with each school site to encourage community dialogue. Ms. Nguyen says she understands the sentiment and agrees that it is important to bring the community together. She adds that it would be good to have a mediator. Then expressed concern about timing. Ms. Nguyen states that 40 days is not a lot of time. Mr. Honsberger notes that if the board were to attend and hold 4 separate meetings, they will all need to be agendaized as per the Brown Act. Mr. Martinez confirms that you always need an agenda and public comment. Dr. Yamashiro suggests that the board would not need to attend the community meetings. They could be facilitated by a moderator and the community would be given the opportunity to discuss ideas. Mr. Honsberger suggests that the idea of a moderated community meeting and separate hearing resonates with him. Mr. Martinez reminds the Trustees that whatever process is decided upon for this set of petitions must be followed for every petition hereafter. Ms. Nguyen says she is concerned about all the board members needing to all have the same information before the hearing. Mr. Martinez says that the Board has to make a decision on the petitions based on what is in front of it. You have to come to the hearing with an open mind. Ms. Glickman says that she thinks the public hearing should not be over the winter break in February. Ms. Glickman moves the public hearing be held on February 12th. Ms. Hutchinson seconds. Vote: 5:0 in favor (Hutchinson, Nguyen, Chacko, Honsberger, Glickman)

Mr. Martinez says that whatever decision you make has to be made on information received in common. He adds that none of the previous emails or correspondences regarding this issue can impact the decision of

the Board regarding the petitions received today. Mr. Martinez explains that the decisions made have to be based on information received after the petitions. The Board decided to collect information in a repository and advertise how to submit comments via school sites and various public forums. Mr. Martinez tells the board they are required to vote on every petition yes or no. He goes on to say that the Board will need to act on each petition decisively. Ms. Glickman moves the board table the discussion until after the DTA presentation. Ms. Nguyen seconds.

Mr. Martinez suggests a mechanism for the community to be able to submit their ideas in writing for the board to consider.

DTA UPDATE

Ms. Costello said that there are new babies in the district. She shared that sites were concerned about the timeline for Miller Creek construction in the summer. She said that Vallecito is enjoying their new principal.

RESUME DISCUSSION

Ms. Chacko asks if the district can make sure there are no licensing issues with the names on the petitions. Ms. Glickman says that one of the names could have licensing issues. She suggests the board should ask the Superintendent to do some background work on the names in the petitions to see if there are licensing issues. Mr. Martinez says that the petitioners should already have explored the legality of the name in the petition. Ms. Hutchinson says someone needs to do so background work to vet the names in case the petitioners didn't properly vet the names on the petition. Dr. Yamashiro says that we are not experts in that area. But adds that we are open to researching. Ms. Nguyen asks that the district do a preliminary search to make sure there are no conflicts and check on trademarked names. Mr. Honsberger asks that at the Public Hearing the district presents the board with a summary of research about whether or not another district has a name suggested on a petition, trademarks and legal vetting on all of the names. Ms. Nguyen adds that she would like to be super conservative on this one. Dr. Yamashiro says that it sounds like the board is giving direction to do the technical work on research regarding potential conflicts with the names, cross check them with legal. Just to make sure there are no surprises. Ms. Nguyen says she is ok with that. She asks that the district do a preliminary search to make sure there is no other school with the names, copyright issues and if there are any controversial concerns with the names. Dr. Yamashiro agrees to provide the research information in writing. Ms. Glickman suggests the public hearing be held in a larger room. Ms. Glickman moves the next board meeting/public hearing be held at Miller Creek Middle School. Ms. Chacko seconds. All vote in favor. 5:0 (Chacko, Hutchinson, Nguyen, Honsberger, Glickman). Mr. Martinez recommends that the Board not research the petitions. He says that is purpose of the repository. Petitioners bear the burden of proof as to whether the names are legal or controversial. Mr. Martinez says all information should go through the repository. Mr. Martinez adds that the public does not have a

constitutional right to make the district change its name. This district has a name. The status quo is that the district has a name. Someone has to move to move you off of your name. Nothing prevents this board from independent research. But if you do, you are running into dangerous waters. He goes on to say that whatever information the Board takes in has to be considered by the whole board. The Board agrees to hold a public meeting with a facilitator which they do not attend. Ms. Glickman requests that the district provide a webpage form for the public to submit written comments to the board regarding the petitions. Due to the late hour, the Board decides to table the remainder of the agenda with the exception of the resolution. Ms Glickman moves to table item 7.1, 9.1 and 9.2 on the agenda. All vote in favor. 5:0 (Glickman, Honsberger, Hutchinson, Chacko, Nguyen)

Mr. Honsberger motions in favor, Ms. Hutchinson seconds, all vote in favor 5:0 (Glickman, Honsberger, Hutchinson, Chacko, Nguyen)

RESOLUTION FOR
AUTHORIZATION TO
APPLY FOR CARL
MOYER PROGRAM FOR
LOWER EMISSION
SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

Ms. Hutchinson motions for adjournment, Ms. Nguyen seconds. Mr. Honsberger adjourns the meeting at 12:05am

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jason Yamashiro Ed. L.D.
Superintendent, Dixie School District

