

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dixie School District

February 12, 2019 5:30PM

Miller Creek Middle School

2255 Las Gallinas Ave.

San Rafael, CA 94903

Open Session 5:30

Attendance

Trustees:

Brad Honsberger

Alissa Chacko

Marnie Glickman

Megan Hutchinson

Brooks Nguyen

Administrators:

Dr. Jason Yamashiro-Superintendent

Tracy Smith-Asst. Superintendent

Tanya Michel-Chief Business Officer

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dixie School District was called to order by Mr. Honsberger at 5:30 p.m. at Miller Creek Middle School. A quorum was present

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Salute

The board said the pledge of allegiance.

1.3 Approval of the Open Session Agenda

Motion: Ms. Nguyen

Second: Ms. Glickman

Vote: unanimously to approve of the open session agenda (Honsberger, Chacko, Glickman, Hutchinson, Nguyen)

1.4 Public Comment on Items in the Open Session Agenda

None

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

On consent agenda:

- Approval of Minutes 1.15-19
- Certification by the Board of Monthly Payroll Order and Bills
- Consideration of Consolidated Application and Reporting System (CARS)
- Consideration of Approval of a Contract Between Dixie School District and Greystone for Project Management Services
- Low Performing Student Block Grant
- Approval of Hazardous Materials Inspection Proposal
- Approval of Inspector of Record Proposal for Miller Creek
- Resolution Regarding the Possible Adoption of a Prequalification Process for Lease-Leaseback Project-Miller Creek

Motion: Ms. Nguyen

Second: Ms. Hutchinson

Vote: Unanimously to approve of the consent agenda items (Honsberger, Chacko, Glickman, Hutchinson, Nguyen)

3. Announcement and Special Items

3.1 Superintendent's Report: Dr. Yamashiro said that he visited classrooms where he saw a lot of emphasis on reading and writing. He worked with the 3rd grade team on a writer's workshop.

3.2 Update Regarding Estimated Costs of Name Change

Ms. Michel shares a Power Point presentation (attached to meeting's agenda) regarding estimated costs of changing the name of the school district. Ms. Chacko asks that the district staff research the cost of school name changes as well as district name changes. She mentions a school in Berkeley and Napa as suggestions. Ms. Nguyen asks for a further break down of legal costs in the next name change report. She asks that the District's lawyers draw up a quote for the costs of document changes and legal fees. Ms. Chacko says she would like a list of all the District's properties and a line by line list of the costs associated with the name change. Ms. Michel states that many of the districts she researched had minor changes to their names IE adding the word "Unified".

3.3 Public Hearing to Consider 13 petitions Proposing District Name Change – Board

Discussion and Action

Mr. Honsberger provides guidelines for the Public Hearing. He asks that the discussion process be thoughtful and inclusive. He says that people will have a 2 minute limit to their comments

and institutes a 3 hour time limit for public comment. He reminds people that the board has received a great deal of public comment electronically. Mr. Honsberger also reminds people not to shout at speakers, clap or cheer. He asks that people please be respectful.

Speaker #1 asks that the board take a step back and get a cross section of opinion from the community. He says the board should not feel forced to make a decision based on pressure.

#2 Speaker says that the community should be allowed to vote on the issue

#3 Speaker asks board to vote for the name change

#4 Speaker asks that community be allowed to vote for name change not the board.

#5 Speaker asks for advisory ballot. She says that people need the privacy of the voting booth.

#6 Speaker opposes the name change because it forgets history we may learn from

#7 Speaker has a positive association with name Dixie.

#8 Speaker says that the board should make a decision. Changing the name of the district won't change history of the district.

#9 Speaker says that a small group of mostly non-residents think they know what is best. He says that he doesn't like being called a racist and believes everyone in the community is welcomed with open arms.

#10 Speaker says she believes the book White Fragility should be required reading for everyone. Says she is in favor of the name change.

#11 Speaker says she thinks Dixie is not a racist district but should have a name that reflects that.

#12 Speaker says she doesn't like the set-up of the public hearing. She is in favor of a name change.

#13 Speaker says she always wondered why the school district had a racist name. Is in favor of a name change

#14 Speaker says the name is a reminder of ethnic and religious hatred. Is in favor of a name change.

#15 Speaker says the board should stick with a 2020 vote.

#16 Speaker is in favor of a name change

#17 Speaker is named Dixie and doesn't like that people are calling her name racist. She has been Dixie since before the civil war. She says she is Miwok and Miller Creek is built on her people's land.

#18 Speaker says a small group of activists seems to think that his small every educated liberal community is not smart enough to make its own decisions. Believes the board should let the community vote.

#19 Speaker says the people should be allowed to vote on what the name Dixie means to them

#20 Speaker says Dixie represents a wonderful education. Not in favor of a name change

#21 Speaker says she would like the board to go back to serving its correct purpose which is to serve the children. She is in favor of the ballot and thinks the board should reconsider the GATE program.

#22 Speaker thinks changing the name would not change the quality of education Dixie provides. Is in favor of a name change.

#23 Speaker believes the board should vote down the names and engage the community.

#24 Speaker is in favor of the name change

#25 Speaker believes the board should serve the community with a consensus 5:0 vote.

#26 Speaker believes the board should research how other schools/districts have navigated name changes and engage the community.

#27 Speaker says that we inherited the name but without changing it, we own it. In favor of a name change.

#28 Says that if we maintain the name Dixie we have to teach the language of the Miwok Tribe. Says that putting off the vote until 2020 isn't a good idea.

#29 Speaker says that the board should change the name because elections have a way of not turning out the way you hope.

#30 Speaker supports a name change because the name deeply hurts African Americans.

#31 Speaker enjoyed the community engagement event the previous week. Says there should be a healthy dialog and listening to the minority vote. Says a vote would not be inclusive or diverse.

#32 Speaker says the board should do the right thing because everyone is watching.

#33 Speaker says they board should change the name.

#34 Speaker says a name change is symbolic and it should be changed.

#35 Speaker says the name Dixie invites hate into the inner circle. It teaches kids that it is ok to be racist. However, with the word Dixie gone, we can have a district free of hate.

#36 Speaker says that Dixie is a geographic term. They have lived in the district several years and the idea that Dixie is a racist name never came up. He says the community should be allowed to vote on the issue.

#37 Speaker asks the board to honor the 4:1 commitment they made in December. Says that it should be on next year's ballot because we live in a democracy.

#38 Speaker says the constitution gives us the right to vote. Believes we should be allowed to vote.

#39 Speaker says that the community voted when they voted the board in place. Now it's time for the board to decide as elected representatives. In favor of the name change.

#40 Speaker says that even a small child is capable of figuring this out. Is in favor of the name change.

#41 Speaker says tomorrow the papers will show people what the board decided. It will show them what we are made of. In favor of a name change.

#42 Speaker asked the board if any of them ran on the platform of a name change.

#42 Speaker asks that people forgive the south and let the district keep its name.

#43 Speaker says the board has had several chances to change the name. Asks that they vote to choose Live Oak Valley as the new name.

#44 Speaker says the district no longer aligns with their beliefs. In favor of a name change.

#45 Speaker says when you know better you do better. In favor of a name change,

#46 Speaker says they believe people can evolve through dialogue. The more educated she became the more her opinion changed. She says there needs to be a name change but there also needs to be a lot of talking.

7:30 Board Adjourns for a break

7:40 Meeting resumes

#47 Speaker asks that the board honor its decision to send this to a vote.

#48 Speaker says that changing the name is the only way to eliminate controversy.

#49 Speaker says she is the wife of a former Trustee and they have kicked the issue down the road a few times. Says she doesn't believe we can't excuse keeping the name.

#50 Speaker suggests naming the district after a former educator.

#51 Speaker suggests we assign the district a number rather than a name so no one will be offended.

#52 Speaker says she believes things will get worse if the vote is pushed to 2020.

#53 Speaker says San Rafael is mostly white because of housing policy. She says that African Americans don't move here because they don't feel welcome here. She urges the Board to change the name.

#54 Speaker says she is upset that the issue is being debated at all. In favor of a name change.

#55 Speaker thanks the Board. He says that he sees unity in the room and finds it incredible that people are allowed to do this.

#56 Speaker says her experience is that the community is welcoming to all races and religions. She never felt the community was in any way unified with the south. Is not in favor of a name change.

#57 Speaker says he is in favor of a name change

#58 Speaker says someone explained why the name offends them and now they understand. In favor of the name change.

#59 Speaker says he is worried about making a decision that demonizes people in the South.

#60 Speaker says that although the community has 14,000 voters not all have school aged children in the district. Not in favor of a name change.

#61 Speaker is not in favor of the name change.

#62 Speaker is in favor of a name change.

#63 Speaker says this is a movement. In favor of name change.

#64 Speaker is in favor of a name change

#65 Speaker is a parent of two in the district. She came to listen.

#66 Speaker says they are not in favor of a name change.

#67 Speaker says no learning institution should be named Dixie. She asks that the Board not use process as an excuse. She says that she is in favor of a name change.

#68 Speaker is in favor of a name change. Says it is important to model kindness.

#69 Speaker says changing the name will be a small move in the right direction. District also needs more teachers of color.

#70 Speaker says she is in favor of changing the name because it will help those who are feeling hurt and excluded by the name.

#71 Speaker disagrees the name change has divided a peaceful community. She says that there has always been racism in the community. She says that the country was built on stolen land with stolen labor. We need to change the name.

#72 Speaker says that white privilege keeps us from being offended. She says that white people don't need to know why it's offensive just that it is offensive. She asks the board to change the name.

#73 Speaker says she is in favor of a name change. She expressed concern that the costs will rise over time making the name change more expensive if we wait.

#74 Speaker is in favor of a name change

#75 Speaker says we need to correct the harm we've done and change the name.

#76 Speaker says the origin of the name isn't important. The fact that people are offended is. Is in favor of a name change.

#77 Speaker says she hopes her new baby goes to school with a new name.

All speakers had the opportunity to share their thoughts. Mr. Honsberger moves the Board into the Board discussion phase. Mr. Honsberger says that whatever happens tonight isn't going to make everyone happy. He adds that the Board respects everyone's opinions and hopes everyone can move forward as a community. Mr. Honsberger explains the process the Board will use to discuss and vote on petitions. He asks Attorney Manuel Martinez to confirm or add to his explanation. Mr. Martinez adds that it is entirely up to the board how they wish to consider the petitions. He did recommend that the Board act (vote) on all of the petitions before adjourning the meeting.

Ms. Nguyen suggests the board start by reviewing the name research memo that Dr. Yamashiro had generated at the Board's request. Dr. Yamashiro reviews the name research memo with the board. Ms. Glickman asks Mr. Martinez whether it's legal or not to choose a name that is already being used by another district. Mr. Martinez says that attempting to change our name to a name that is identical to other district would be rejected. Ms. Glickman then asks if a name that is very similar would be rejected. Mr. Martinez says he thinks that would be rejected.

Ms. Nguyen asks about adopting a place holder name. Mr. Martinez responds that the district has a name. There is no place holder. Mr. Martinez goes on to point out that the board could vote on a name tonight and a new name in the future. But this would add to the time-line, cost and potentially expose the district to liability. Mr. Honsberger says that the petitions are what the Board has at hand. He says he understands their job tonight is to vote on the petitions that have been presented.

Ms. Glickman Motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Live Oak Elementary School District***

Ms. Nguyen seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 4 (Nguyen, Glickman, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Abstain: 1 (Chacko)

Mr. Honsberger says that he finds the Board has been thrust into this process because of Ed Code. He has heard a lot of comments from the community about trying to understand each other. He asks that the board group the petitions together for a vote rather than voting one by one.

Ms. Chacko says that she wants to say a few things about how the issue of a name change was brought to the board. The entire process was skipped. She adds that the district has spent over \$36,000 since August and the Board has been able to do very little of its usual necessary work. The community heard about this on the news. Sharing of Board emails and outside politician involvement has created a large amount of distrust. I think if we move forward with a name change it only encourages discord. The petitions are not statistically significant. Ms. Chacko says she is in favor of a poll and adds that she doesn't approve of the process set before the Board.

Ms. Nguyen says that the Board has not had the opportunity to talk about this issue. This is an emotional issue and they need more time.

Ms. Glickman says that Ms. Ruby Wilson feels the name has been hurting her for 47 years. She adds that the issue was brought to the board in 1997 and this has been going on for 22 years.

Ms. Chacko says she has heard comments that people would like to have input into the name of the district.

Ms. Hutchinson says she supports a name change. She adds that she believes the community needs a place in the process.

Ms. Nguyen asks how we move forward to discuss a process.

Dr. Yamashiro says that is has to be agendized.

Ms. Glickman says she is interested in judging petitions on merit rather than talking about process.

Ms. Chacko says that she has 13 petitions with no reasons why one name is better than another. If we get down to 4 how will we pick?

Ms. Glickman says she thinks they are all qualified to pick and picking a name is how they will choose a name.

Ms. Glickman says this is about ethics and morality.

Mr. Honsberger asks what is wrong with taking a breather and getting more feedback.

Ms. Glickman says the board has received hundreds of emails on the issue. Taking a step back disregards the voices of African Americans.

Mr. Honsberger says that as a community they haven't discussed the matter.

Ms. Nguyen says she supports a name change. But she thinks there needs to be a better process to engage stakeholders.

Ms. Glickman says this is our opportunity to decide. We have other things we need to do think about like diversity training and policy changes. To say no based on process, I think there will be consequences. Our school board meetings will get longer.

Ms. Chacko says she doesn't feel like she is going to give in to those types of threats. She states that she thinks it is very important for the community to be involved.

Mr. Honsberger says the board has good input but needs more. He'd like to engage more community involvement.

Ms. Glickman says there will be nonviolent civil disobedience. By voting no you are picking Dixie. Dixie is a synonym of the confederacy.

Ms. Hutchinson says she agrees with Marnie. She likes the idea of a place holder but it is not legally advisable. She says that she agrees this is harmful but she adds that there are other people that haven't been involved in the process who may want to be.

Ms. Glickman says there have been lots of people involved in the process and this is not going away. She adds that in this room there is a petition with 15 signatures and she believes more petitions could be filed tomorrow.

Ms. Hutchinson says she agrees in theory but she has trouble with the process.

Mr. Honsberger says the board can agendaize a process for the next board meeting.

Mr. Honsberger motions to group the remaining names together and vote no with the plan to talk about the process at the next board meeting.

Ms. Hutchinson says she likes the idea of talking about process but she doesn't like the idea of waiting another month. She adds that she is not against voting on each petition.

Ms. Nguyen says agrees that time is of the essence and they need a short time line. She goes on to say that she is ok with voting on each name or voting as a group.

Ms. Chacko seconds Mr. Honsberger's motion to vote on the petitions as a group.

Ms. Glickman says she thinks each petition warrants a vote.

Mr. Honsberger asked if community input gravitated toward one name could they come back?

Mr. Martinez says in theory yes.

Mr. Honsberger asks if the Board wants to vote on the petitions individually.

Ms. Glickman moves the Board vote on each petition individually

Ms. Nguyen seconds

The Board votes 5:0 to vote on each petition individually.

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Ms. Nguyen motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Oak Valley Elementary***

Ms. Glickman seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 5

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Ms. Glickman motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Miwok Elementary School District***

Ms. Nguyen seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 5

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Ms. Nguyen motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Skywalker Elementary School District***

Ms. Hutchinson seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 5

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Mr. Honsberger motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Miwok Hills Elementary School District***

Ms. Hutchinson seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 5

Miwok Hills Elementary School District

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Mr. Honsberger motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***John Muir Elementary School District***.

Ms. Nguyen seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 5

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Ms. Nguyen motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Mary Dixie Elementary School District***

Mr. Honsberger seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 5

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Ms. Nguyen motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Miller Creek Elementary School District***

Ms Honsberger seconds

Ms. Hutchinson notes that there were many emails saying they liked the name Miller Creek. And all three schools feed into Miller Creek.

Ms. Glickman adds that the Mayor wanted this name as did Sue Holland.

Ms. Hutchinson adds that James Miller is the person who named the district in the first place.

Ms. Glickman says that Miller Creek is one of the names she was open to. Miller Creek is unifying. She says that everyone would be proud of Miller Creek.

Ms. Hutchinson says there is a lot of concern about how the school was named. What if there is concern in the future?

Ms. Glickman says she likes Terra Linda and Live Oak Valley but in the interest of flexibility.

Ms. Chacko says she doesn't like the name.

Vote on ***Miller Creek Elementary School District***

Aye: 1 (Glickman)

No: 4

(Nguyen, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Ms. Chacko motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Lucas Valley Elementary School District***

Ms. Nguyen seconds

Vote

Aye: 0

No: 5

(Nguyen, Glickman, Chacko, Hutchinson, Honsberger)

Ms. Nguyen motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Terra Linda Elementary School District***

Ms. Chacko seconds

Vote

Aye: 1 (Ms. Glickman)

No: 3 (Ms. Nguyen, Mr. Honsberger, Ms. Chacko)

Abstain: 1 Hutchinson

Mr. Honsberger motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Terrawood Valley Elementary School District***

Ms Chacko seconds

Vote

Aye: 1 (Ms. Glickman)

No: 4 (Ms. Nguyen, Mr. Honsberger, Ms. Chacko, Ms. Hutchinson)

Mr. Honsberger motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Big Rock Elementary School District***

Ms Nguyen seconds

Vote

Aye: 2 (Ms. Glickman, Ms. Hutchinson)

No: 3 (Ms. Nguyen, Mr. Honsberger, Ms. Chacko)

Mr. Honsberger motions to vote on the petition to change the District name to ***Live Oak Elementary School District***

Ms Chacko seconds

Vote

Aye: 2 (Ms. Glickman, Ms. Hutchinson)

No: 3 (Ms. Nguyen, Mr. Honsberger, Ms. Chacko)

Board took a recess at 10:35

Board reconvened at 10:55. Ms. Glickman was absent

4. Communications

4.1 Public Comment on Items not Specified on the Agenda

Speaker #1 Said that he had met with Mr. Honsberger and each on the board he offered to help create a process. He went on to say that he is happy to help create a process.

Speaker #2 said that there is a fence falling down. He'd be happy to show the board where it is. Thanked the board for their time.

Speaker #3 quoted Rush

5. Organizational Matters

5.1 Community Activities

Ski week is next week. There is a Can Do auction February 14th.

5.2 Reports by Board Members on Meetings Attended

Ms. Hutchinson: JLAC

Mr. Honsberger:

Noel Schumway Memorial

Damon Connolly

Workshop Agenda

Manuel Martinez

SR Chamber -

Ed Committee

Agenda Meeting

Board Workshop

John Gamblin

Mary Rosenthal

San Rafael Chamber

Terra Linda HOA

JLAC Sacramento

IWeek - Miller Creek

Dixie Terra Linda Little League

Miller Creek Basketball

Courageous Conversation

Miller Creek Basketball

Old Dixie Schoolhouse

MCSBA

Megan

Agenda Meeting

Coordinating Council

Miller Creek Basketball

Chamber Ed Committee

Alissa

Miller Creek HSC

DTA

Ms. Nguyen: Two day seminar on health and wellness, JLAC Sacramento

5.3 Identify Items for Future Agenda

-Agendize discussion for developing a process to address name change. Board agrees on date of February 28 @ 6:00pm.