

October 8, 2018

**Dixie School District**  
380 Nova Albion Way  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Honorable Trustees:

Over fifteen years ago, this Commission wrote to you, encouraging a change of name from “Dixie School District” to something less offensive. The letter noted, among other points, that “Dixie” was inconsistent with the District’s mission statement, which includes support “for all students.” We write again for the same purpose.

Regardless of the name’s actual origin, the term today represents the Confederacy, traitors who fought against the United States in an effort to maintain their “right” to own other human beings.

The name, intentionally or not, suggests that persons of color (students, parents, or staff) are not welcome.

There are other ways to enjoy tradition without celebrating a racist history. The District might even use the change as a teaching point, with presentations and displays explaining the origin of the name, and why it was changed.

Aversion to change is not an excuse to perpetuate the status quo. We once more urge the District to change the name from “Dixie” to something more positive and less hurtful.

On behalf of the Marin Human Rights Commission,

Matt White, Chair  
Marin County Human Rights Commission  
351 Civic Center Dr. #415,  
San Rafael, CA 94903