

**History
Of
North Lamar
Independent
School District**



History of North Lamar Independent School District

The North Lamar Independent School District has its roots in Powderly, Texas, as Powderly School District #83. The Powderly school was initially an old wooden building located about 100 feet south of its present location and was used until around 1940. When that building was done away with to clear the site for the present building, school was held in the homes of the Parker's, the Sam Chism's, and the Baptist and Methodist churches.



The basic "Rock School" was built by the Work Projects Administration (WPA) during 1938-1939, and opened for its first school year in 1940. Twelve classrooms, the main office, and a hallway made for the school's humble beginnings. The office was located in what is now a small storage room and the library was located in what are now the principal's and nurse's offices. The library served also as a classroom with a countertop dividing the two rooms. Heating was produced by a wood-burning pot belly stove and the chimneys are visible today, serving as a landmark for many. Electricity would not arrive until 1942, and students used outdoor toilets. The "outhouses" were placed on the playground approximately where the water fountains are now located. The original cafeteria was an old army barracks building.

Two other buildings, housing the agriculture and homemaking/business classrooms, were located behind the gymnasium, but their exact locations are unknown. Additionally, three classrooms, two bathrooms and a superintendent's office were constructed on the south side of the main building. On the north side bathrooms would arrive in 1951, followed in 1953, by a twenty-four foot gymnasium. At this time, the superintendent's office was located where the present-day dyslexia room resides.



Even though Mr. Aaron Parker was school superintendent from 1936 to 1944, he also taught three English classes a day, kept school records, transacted school business, and was a part-time janitor. Mr. Parker died from burns suffered in an explosion involving a school bus. Mrs. Parker was also a school teacher. In 1944, Powderly had 120 students, employed twelve teachers and contained an area of approximately 116 square miles.

In 1944, Mr. Frank Stone became superintendent of the Powderly School District. The Lamar County School Board established the Powderly Rural High School District #81 on March 3, 1948, by joining Hinckley School District #60, Palestine School District #61, Pee Dee School District #62, Slate Shoals School District #63, Powderly School District #83, and Bounds School District #90. The County School Board annexed Adams School District #18 and Frisco School District #19 on July 1, 1949. The district also included Powderly Colored School, also known as North Powderly School, and it consisted of an accredited elementary school and a four-year approved high school for the colored scholars of the area.



The 1962 bond election annexed Lone Star Consolidated Common School District #77. The bond allowed the addition of

two classrooms, located where the Head Start building sits today, for seventh and eighth grade students. Of those two buildings, the Head Start room still remains.

Lone Star Consolidated Common School District #77 was officially established by an order of the Lamar County Commissioners Court on April 6, 1946, consolidating Medill District #77, Faulkner District #78, and Faught District #79. During the 1963 school year, the Lone Star and Powderly school districts consolidated, adding Lone Star School, Lone Star Colored School and approximately 52 square miles to the Powderly district.

By 1964, Powderly Colored School (North Powderly High School), Slate Shoals (Trickem or Reed's Chapel), and Bounds (Bradley Hill) schools were integrated into the Powderly School. The Reno School District #16 was annexed in 1964.

Reno School District #16 was officially established by an order of the Lamar County Commissioners Court on June 17, 1887, and expanded to include Mt. Vernon District #85 and Mansfield District #84 on May 17, 1894. The district was re-established as Moore's Springs District #16 on November 14, 1911, before becoming known as Reno. September 4, 1943, Mt. Olive District #86 and Reno districts consolidated to expand the district to approximately 27 square miles. On March 26, 1965, about one and one half acres were annexed into Paris Independent School District leaving approximately 25 square miles.



A 1965 bond election provided \$1,000,000 for the first high school, Powderly-Reno High School with grades 9-12 (presently Frank Stone Middle School), the field house, and stadium.

When the two schools consolidated in 1966, the Powderly-Reno School District emerged. With construction completed in 1968, Powderly school now became strictly an elementary and middle school. Districts and boundaries were being drawn at this time.

Central School District, established in 1944, was located in Sumner, Texas.

Some of the districts that consolidated to form the Central were: Sumner School District # 91, Emberson School District #52, Caviness School District #59, Cottonwood School



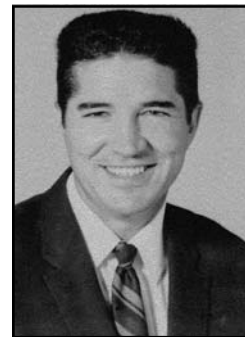
District #55, Maxey School District #75, Unity School District #92, Eureka School District #53, Hopewell School District #50, Craddock School District #58, Hinckley School District #60, and Mound Prairie School District #49. Direct School District #87 consolidated with Central School District in 1949.

As 1970 arrived, the Powderly-Reno and Central school districts became the North Lamar Independent School District. At this



time, the North Lamar ISD served 1,254 students and classrooms were added to the east side of the high school. This school was renamed Frank Stone High School after Mr. Stone tragically died in a single, one car accident during December of 1971. At this time, Mr. Cecil Everett became superintendent.

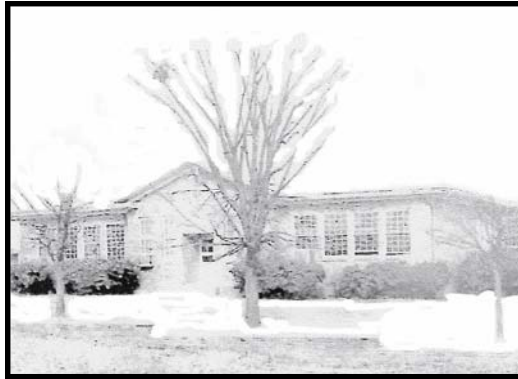
The 1973 bond election provided \$1,000,000 allowing for the expansion of a B-wing addition to the high school. Upon completion in 1974, the addition was named Geneva Bailey Junior High. The bond also approved building Cecil Everett Elementary, completed in 1976, a cafeteria for the Powderly school, and some remodeling. Mr. Cecil Everett retired in 1974, and Mr. Roy C. Chadwick succeeded him as superintendent.



A 1975 bond was necessary due to increased student enrollment. This bond provided \$1,000,000 for additions to Geneva Bailey Junior High, Cecil Everett Elementary, and the Powderly schools. The administration building was also included for construction at this time. The Powderly school was renamed Aaron Parker Elementary School and the Chicota Rural High School District #11 consolidated with the North Lamar Independent School District.

Chicota Rural High School District #11 was established in 1887. In 1916, Boggy School District #66 consolidated with Chicota School District #65. In 1941, Page's Chapel consolidated with the district and then in 1947, Young's Academy and Mc Daniel were added. The Lamar County School Board in 1948, grouped Forest Chapel School District #67, Davis School District #68, Post Oak School District #69, Garrett's Bluff School District #70, and Belk with Chicota to form the Chicota Rural High School District. With

an enrollment of 450, Chicota Rural High School District joined North Lamar ISD in 1975.



The Chicota High School students started classes at Frank Stone High School in 1977, but grades first-sixth stayed at Chicota until 1979, when they moved to Aaron Parker. The addition of Chicota boosted the enrollment to 1,909.

North Lamar ISD had two failed bond elections in June and December, 1981. Then in 1985, a bond election provided \$3,985,000 for construction of Geneva Bailey Middle School, the Cecil Everett Elementary gymnasium, and Goodman Learning Center. W. L. Higgins Elementary opened its doors in January 1989. James A. Dawson was hired as the high school principal in 1987; the second semester of the 1988-89 school year, Mr. Dawson served as principal and superintendent. After this, Mr. Dawson was named superintendent in 1989 without the principal duties.



In 1990, a bond election failed but the succeeding election in 1994 passed, providing \$11,500,000, paving the way for the present North Lamar High School. December 31, 1995, the annex building of Aaron Parker Elementary was vandalized and

burned. Due to the extensive damage, the annex was torn down and rebuilt. Portable buildings were delivered as temporary classrooms while the annex was reconstructed.



The doors to North Lamar High School opened for classes in 1996. The following year, 1997, Aaron Parker Elementary transferred all fourth and fifth grades to Geneva Bailey Intermediate. The sixth grade transferred to Frank Stone's B-wing, and the seventh and eighth grades transferred to Frank Stone's main building, which left the ninth-twelfth grades at the new North Lamar High School.

In 2001-2002, fourth grade was returned to Aaron Parker Elementary and by 2002-2003, fifth graders were attending Aaron Parker Elementary, making it a Head Start-fifth grade school.

The 2009 bond election provided \$4,680,000 to add four new science labs and five new computer labs to North Lamar High School. Repairs and improvements to existing North Lamar facilities were included in the bond.

With the retirement of James A. Dawson in September of 2014, the NLISD School Board named John McCullough as superintendent.

Mr. McCullough took the reins of North Lamar ISD with six campuses: North Lamar High School (9-12), Frank Stone Middle School (6-8), Geneva Bailey Intermediate School (4-5), Aaron Parker Elementary School (Head Start-5), Cecil Everett Elementary School (2-3) and W. L. Higgins Elementary School (Pre-K-1). The enrollment was over 2,800 students.



Forty-four school districts make up what is now North Lamar Independent School District. The district serves northern portions of Paris, the cities of Reno and Sun Valley, as well as the northern Lamar County communities of Arthur City, Chicota, Powderly, and Sumner. A very small portion of northeastern Fannin County also lies within the district. NLISD covers an area of 428 square miles, 48% of Lamar County, plus approximately 3,000 acres in Fannin County.

While Mr. McCullough was superintendent he had a vision to replace Higgins Elementary, Everett Elementary and Bailey Intermediate with new campuses. The bonds were a hard sale to the voters which ended in two failed bond elections one in May of 2016 for 56M and the other, May of 2017 for 44.9M. Mr. McCullough stepped down as superintendent on August 28, 2017 following an agreed upon severance package with the school board.



During the third week of the 2017-2018 school year, North Lamar ISD named Charlie Martin as interim superintendent. Mr. Martin remained interim superintendent from August 2017 until March 2018.



North Lamar ISD Board of Trustees in January 2018 named Dr. Jason Adams, as the Lone Finalist for the position of superintendent of North Lamar ISD. Dr. Jason Adams accepted the position and began his career with North Lamar ISD in March 2018. During his previous twenty-one year career in education, he was a teacher, coach, campus administrator, and superintendent. Dr. Adams and family are excited about becoming part of the Panther family here at North Lamar ISD. Dr. Jason Adams resigned as superintendent of North Lamar ISD in March of 2019.



NLISD School Board named Kelli Stewart as Interim Superintendent in March 2019. Kelli Stewart has served North Lamar ISD for the past 17 years as teacher, counselor, assistant principal and principal.

Superintendents

Kelli Stewart (Interim) - March 2019 - Present

Dr. Jason Adams—March 2018—March 2019

Charlie Martin (Interim) - August 2017—March 2018

John McCullough—2014– August 2017

James A. Dawson – 1989-2014

Roy C. Chadwick – 1974-1988

Cecil Everett – 1971-1974

Frank Stone – 1944-1971

Aaron Parker – 1936-1944

This is a work in progress.

All additional information or comments are welcome.

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