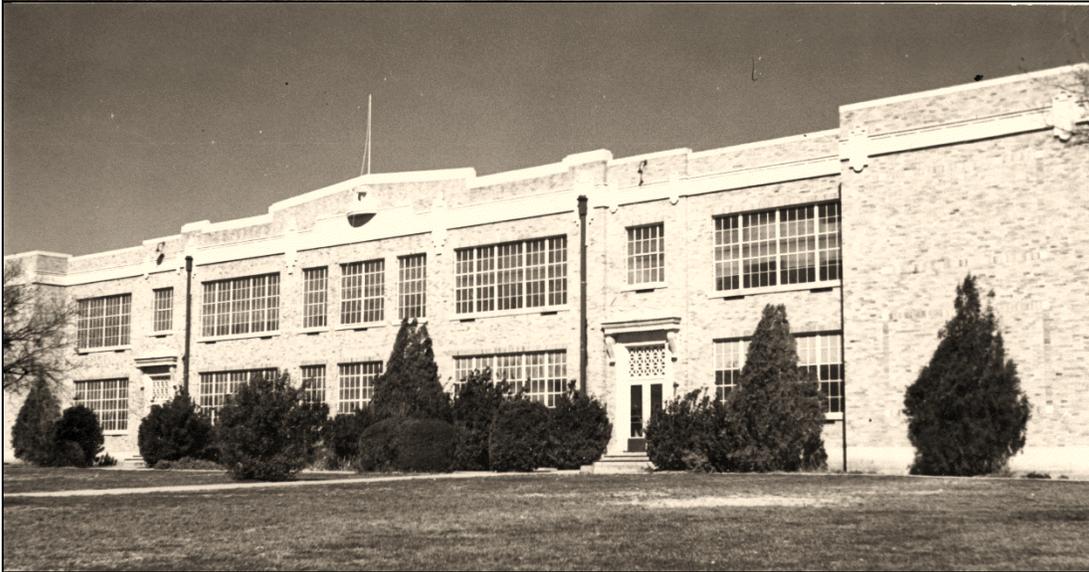


DOWN THE YEARS



TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1884 - 1975

Written by Mr. T.H. Johnson

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INTRODUCTION

This is a brief story told in pictures, diagrams, statistics and highlights concerning the beginning, growth and development of the Taylor Public Schools over a 91 year period (1884-1975). Many individuals have contributed much through the years to see that an adequate school system be maintained for the boys and girls of Taylor. All of this merits recognition of our schools at this time, and should motivate each student to become involved in learning something of the history of their school.

---T.H. Johnson
---T.H. Johnson

DOWN THE YEARS WITH THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Flashback Items of General Interest The Schools

The Taylor Public School System was organized in 1884 under Superintendent A. E. Hill. There were two in the first graduation class in 1887.

Before 1884 a number of private schools existed in Taylor: Aten School, McMurray School, Mrs. Hutchinson's School for girls, Green Institute, Lone Star Academy and the Stock Company School.

The first Taylor Public School Building (1884) consisted of three rooms, east room for the high school, middle room the grammar grades and the west room the primary department, A. E. Hill was over the high school, J.S. Jones taught the grammar grades, Miss Emma Puckett taught the primary grades.

Taylor High School had a cadet corps in 1917--1918.

There were 117 members of the Taylor Schools in World War I (1917-1918). Six died in service of their country.

When the opera chairs were installed in the old high school building there were 1,000 at the cost of \$4.17 per chair.

The old high school building (Middle School) was first occupied in September 1923.

The present high school was occupied in September 1969.

Before 1923 the "Cotton Boll" was an annual instead of a newspaper.

In 1903 the principal's salary was \$80 per month.

Manual training (industrial arts) was added to the curriculum in 1904. A teacher was hired for \$765 year.

Teacher's salary in 1904 ranged from \$50 to \$85 per month.

There was a notice in the paper in the early 1900's "No boys and any and every one not to trespass on the school campus."

The school's telephone bill in 1904 was \$4.00 for a two months period.

Also in 1904 before a teacher was appointed, was required to take a competitive examination on all subjects taught in the school, the theory and practice of teaching, the history of education, psychology, and such other branches as the board may prescribe.

The board passed a policy in 1906 prohibiting the growing of plants and flowers in the school rooms.

As early as 1906, there was talk about having a hot lunch program in the school. It did not happen until 1927 when the lunchroom in the high school was established.

In 1907 there superintendent's salary was raised from \$1,200 to \$1,500 per year. The principal was now paid \$100 per month.

To graduate in 1907 15 units were required. The required subjects were English, history and mathematics. The foreign language subjects offered were Latin and German.

In 1908 the tax rate was .45¢...earlier the tax was .40¢.

The eleventh grade was added in 1910 and the twelfth grade in 1941.

By 1909 the superintendent's salary had been increased from \$1,500 to \$1,650.

Pupils were forbidden to leave school ground in 1910 to buy fruit, ice cream and cake.

Twelfth Street School property was bought for \$2,500.

Twelfth Street School was constructed in 1912 at a cost of \$20,000 and at first housed grades 1,2,3. New furniture for the school cost \$950.

By 1913 the school tax rate had increased to .50¢.

A Kindergarten Department was added in 1916. A lot was purchase and a four classroom building was constructed for \$10,000. This building was located on the site of the present administration building.

The board of education voted a policy in 1916... "That the use of tobacco be forbidden employees during school session in and around school premises."

Also, in 1904: "Pupils are strictly prohibited to carry guns, brass-knucks, knives or other deadly weapons to school. Any pupil discovered with any such weapons shall be expelled immediately."

The athletic field (Duck Pond) was purchased from Mrs. Dan Murphy in 1916 for \$2,500. The area is 5.8 acres.

Eastside School was first named Blackshear School after Edward L. Blackshear, an outstanding Negro educator and orator, who for many years was the President of Prairie View College. Then O. L. Price School after the principal.

Since 1914, there have been thirteen head coaches of Taylor High: J. T. Hutto, R. B. Galbraith, J. C. Oehler, C. R. drake, Eugene Lambert, T. H. Johnson, Dan Hannan, Ross Baldwin, Bill Ford, Cliff Vandeventer, Harold Mayo and Shirl Frazier.

The two sets of bleachers at the football field have a seating capacity of 3,350.

It was voted by the board of education in 1923 that no live stock would be permitted to graze on the school grounds and that the public be notified to that effect.

There have been nine superintendents of the Taylor schools:

A.E. Hill (1883-1899), W.M. Williams (1900-1909), John F. O'Shea (1909-1918), J.E. Watts, (1918-1922), R.H. Brister (1922 or 1923-1935), E.T. Robbins (1935-1947), T.H. Johnson (1947-1966), John F. Townley (1966-1969), and Joe Scrivner (1969-1979). Later additions include: Mervyn Greer (1980-1982), Bob Borgers (1982-)

Domestic Science (Homemaking) was added to the course of study of Taylor High in 1904.

Vocational Agriculture and Commercial Department were added to the school curriculum in 1923.

The site on which the old high school (Middle School) is located was purchased for \$24,000.

The Ducks have been playing football under lights for 41 years starting in 1933.

The football team's mascot has been "the Ducks" since 1924.

The Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs made the first sweater award to the football team in 1924.

Because of a Smallpox epidemic in 1896, the school term did not end until July 4 of that year.

The football team took an airplane ride on December 19, 1930.

Miss Ruth Mantor became head of the English Department in 1936.

1921-Girls doubles tennis team won the State...the members were: Mrs. Charles Hairston and Virginia Mantor Wright.

In the November 6, 1923 issue of the Cotton Boll:

"The school paper is a good invention.

The school gets all the fame

The printers get the money

And the staff gets all the blame."

The grand piano in the auditorium of the Middle School was presented by citizens of Taylor in 1924...100 people donated \$10 each.

The first mention of the need for a gymnasium for Taylor was in December 1924 issue of the Cotton Boll. The gymnasium was constructed in 1936 at a cost of \$45,000.

The age to enter school was lowered from 7 to 6 in 1930.

In 1890 a three story brick school building was constructed at the cost of \$35,000. This building, located on the site of the present junior high, was used until the fall 1923.

In 1900 the cost to operate the Taylor Schools-\$14,000.
In 1974-75 the cost to operate the Taylor Schools-\$3,029,540.

The school tax rate in 1900 was 40¢; in 1974-75 it is \$1.82.

A comparison of the Taylor Public Schools:

<u>1900-1901</u>		<u>1974-1975</u>
Population -	4,212	9,616
Property Valuation -	\$1,800,000	\$32,000,000
Scholastics -	955	2,075
Personnel Employed	21	193
Budget -	\$14,000	\$3,000,000
School Tax -	40¢	\$1.82

The only school bonds the Taylor School District will owe after 1975 will be the on the new high school.

Did you know that at one time the pupils living outside the Taylor School District had to pay tuition (\$6.00 for elementary, \$12.00 for high school per month) and to ride the bus \$3.00 a month per pupil was charged.

The graduating class of 1975 will be the 88th to graduate from Taylor High.

13 bond issues have been voted for school purposes a total of \$2,702,000. The smallest was \$10,000 and the largest \$1,795,000.

There are 265 steel lockers in the old high school building (Middle School). They cost \$1,578.48.

In 1947, the salary schedule of the Taylor schools ranked third from the bottom of all schools in Texas. Cleburne and Gainesville had lower salary schedules.

At one time the Thrall school District boundary line extended inside the Taylor City Limits.

Taylor beat Georgetown in football for the first time on November 11, 1924 The score Taylor 3 -- Georgetown 0.

A bygone requirement in Taylor Schools in the early 1900s:

"Every pupil is required to attend school punctually and regularly, to be diligent in study, and kind and obliging to teachers, to refrain entirely from profane or improper language, and to be clean and neat in person and attire."

School holidays as listed in 1904: Thanksgiving day, February 22 and April 21.

Rules for pupils in the early 1900s: Pupils go directly to and from school - abstain from playing and quarreling by the way. Pupils living in town required to report to their parents 15 minutes after the close of school. School had authority over a pupil from the time he leaves home in the morning and when he returns home in the evening.

70 years ago the janitors had their duties and responsibilities spelled out for them:

"They shall keep the privy floors and seats neat and clean. They shall wind the clocks as often as necessary, provide water for pupils and teachers at recesses, keep the premises in good order, pruning and watering trees when necessary, attend to everything necessary to make the school house and premises healthful, neat, attractive, comfortable and agreeable."

In the early 1900s to pass from one grade to the next, the pupil was required to have a general average of not less than 80 per cent on all subjects.

The well-stocked library of the Taylor Schools in 1904 consisted of 500 volumes. A pupil could check out one book every two weeks.

For supplementary reading - a requirement:

First Grade - "The Butterfly Baby"

Sixth Grade - "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"

Tenth Grade - "College Entrance Requirements"

Up until 1910, the Taylor Schools consisted of the primary school (grades 1,2,3), grammar school (grades 4,5,6,7) and the high school (grades 8,9,10), all in one building. The school year was divided into 4 quarters. The quarter system is to be resumed next year (1975-76).

A senior in 1903 was required to take literature, physics, history, geometry, civil government and physiology. The optional subjects open to senior were manual training (industrial arts), Latin and bookkeeping.

When manual training (industrial arts) was placed in the course of study of the schools of Texas in 1903, the State Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to aide in the establishment of the course - each school to receive \$500. Taylor was one of the first to include the subject in the course of study.

At the beginning of the 1903 school year 149 children were unable to read or write (68 Whites, 81 Blacks). A child was not required to go to school until 8 years of age.

In the first Taylor High graduating class in 1887, there were 2 members - a boy and girl.

TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS - A 91 YEAR PROFILE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Highlights</u>
1884 -	<p>This was the year the Taylor School was organized with A.E.Hill as the first superintendent. Mr. Hill was to serve 16 years.</p> <p>The school, a three room frame building, with the east room for the high school, middle room the grammar grades and the west room the primary department. The building was purchased from the Stock Company School (a private school) and was located on the site of the present junior high school.</p>
1887 -	<p>The first graduation class of Taylor High consisting of two members: Mrs. Lillian Noyes Schoaf and Ferguson Doak.</p>
1890 -	<p>First bond issue of \$35,000 was voted with the money to be used to construct a three story brick building which was located on the site of present junior high school.</p> <p>The curriculum of the school consisted of reading, spelling, writing, grammar, composition, literature, general history, civics, economics, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, physics, chemistry, Latin and bookkeeping.</p> <p>High School grades consisted of 8,9,10.</p> <p>Legal school age 8 to 17.</p> <p>Superintendent A.E. Hill who served the school for 16 years resigned in 1900.</p>
1900 -	<p>W.M. Williams was appointed the second superintendent of schools.</p>

YearHighlights

- 1904 - The older Hackberry trees located around the campus of the junior high site were planted around 1905.
- To the course of study of the high school the following courses were added: Manual Training (Industrial Arts), Domestic Science (Homemaking), German, Ancient & Modern History.
- Superintendent Williams resigned his position in 1909 after serving the school 9 years.
- 1909 - John F. O'Shea was appointed to serves as the third superintendent.
- 1911 - Second bond issue in the amount of \$16,000 to be used to construct Twelfth Street School.
- 1912 - Third bond issue in the amount of \$10,000 to be used to purchase school site, financing construction and to furnish Twelfth Street School. Twelfth Street School was constructed at a cost of \$20,000.
- Grades 1, 2, 3 were assigned to this building.
- Now the Taylor Public School system consisted of the three story brick building constructed in 1890 and Twelfth Street School.
- 1910 - The eleventh grade was added to the school. For the next 31 years a pupil would be required to complete eleven grades before graduation.
- The curriculum was expanded to include music. By this time the courses of study included: Four years English, four years of Latin, mathematics, history, German, physics, physiology, physical geography, bookkeeping, manual training, domestic arts and music.
- 1916 - The athletic field consisting of 5.8 acres was purchased from the Murphy estate for \$2,500.

Year

Highlights

- 1916 - The school plant expanded and another building was constructed.
- The site where the present Administration Building is located was purchased and a four classroom building called the Kindergarten Building was constructed at a cost of \$10,000. The Kindergarten and Domestic Art (Homemaking) classes used the building.
- Beside a separate Negro School, the Taylor Schools were housed in three buildings.
- 1918 - Superintendent O'Shea after serving the school for 9 years resigned his position in 1918.
- J.E. Watts was appointed superintendent and his term will extend to 1922 - a four year period.
- Another school building was added in South Taylor on the corner of Rio Grande and Sturgis Streets - the Alamo school as it was called, a four classroom building that cost \$3,500.
- 1920 - The fourth bond issue in the amount of \$84,999 was voted to build a new elementary school in the west part of Taylor and to make other improvements to the school system
- West End Elementary School was constructed in 1920 at a cost of \$50,000.
- Also, the site on which a new high school would be constructed was purchase for \$24,000.
- 1921 The fifth bond issue in the amount to f\$150,000 was voted for the purpose of building a new high school.
- There had been only minor changes in the curriculum during Mr. Watts' administration.
- Superintendent Watts resigned in the summer of 1922.

YearHighlights

- 1922 - R.H. Brister, High School Principal, was appointed to succeed Mr. Watts as superintendent. Mr. Brister served in this position for a period of 13 years (1922-1935).
Many improvements were made to the school plant and the educational program during Mr. Brister's Administration.
- 1923 - Sixth bond issue - \$32,000. This issue was approved in order to add an auditorium in the new high school building. The high school building (Middle School) was constructed at a cost of \$182,000. The building was completed and occupied for the first time in September 1923. The old three story brick building, which was constructed in 1890 and used for 33 years was abandoned and finally demolished in 1925.
The school plant at this time consisted of the high school, Twelfth Street, West End, Blackshear School (Black), Alamo (Mexican-American) and the Kindergarten School.
The curriculum was expanded to include: Shorthand, typing, junior business, office practice, bookkeeping, salesmanship, commercial arithmetic, and vocational agriculture.
- 1927 - The entrance age to the Taylor Schools was lowered from 7 to 6.
- 1930 - The seventh bond issue in the amount of \$20,000 was voted to replace the Blackshear School (Negro) which had burned. Blackshear School was constructed at a cost of \$20,000.
- 1931 - There were some improvements to the football field...new knock-down bleachers were purchased.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Highlights</u>
1933 -	<p>Lights on the football field installed at a cost of \$1,500.</p> <p>First game under lights October 27, 1933 ...Taylor 13 - Belton 0.</p> <p>Mr. Brister resigned in the spring of 1935 after being appointed superintendent of the Waco Schools.</p>
1935 -	<p>E.T. Robbins, Superintendent of the Hearne Schools, was appointed Superintendent replacing Mr. Brister in February 1935.</p> <p>Eighth bond issue in the amount of \$35,000 was approved for the purpose of building a new gymnasium at the high school.</p>
1936 -	<p>The gymnasium was constructed at a cost of \$45,000, with the government making a \$10,000 grant to go with the \$35,000 from the bond issue. All indebtedness on the gymnasium was paid by 1955.</p> <p>Some additional course offerings listed: Texas History, Art, Part-time Cooperative Training, Journalism, Choral Music, Band, Crafts, Home Arts, Speech, and Biology.</p>
1941	<p>The twelfth grade was added.</p> <p>Seven acres of land purchased to provide an athletic field at Blackshear School.</p>
1945	<p>Ninth bond issue in the amount of \$125,000 was approved. The money from this bond issue was used to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add 4 rooms to Twelfth Street School and to modernize the rest of the building. This all cost approximately \$75,000. 2. Extensive improvements to the football field. This was not done until 1947. 3. \$10,000 remaining from this bond issue was used to purchase the site for Northside School in 1955. <p>Mr. Robbins after a tenure of 13 years resigned in 1947 to become Superintendent of the Alamo Heights Schools.</p>

YearHighlights

1947-1966

T.H. Johnson, teacher and coach, was elevated to the Superintendent's position in 1947 following the resignation of E.T. Robbins. This administration was to last 19 years, ending in 1966.

The number of scholastics increased from 1,960 in 1947 to 2,534 in 1966.

Property valuation increased from \$6,675,000 in 1947 to \$13,431,605 in 1966. (In 1975 the valuation of the school district is \$32,000,000.)

In 1947 it took \$163,283 to operate the Taylor schools - in 1966 it took \$734,871. (In the 1974-75 school year it will take \$3,029,540.)

The salary schedule for teachers increased above State Salary Schedule twice during the period. Teachers who did extra work were paid extra.

Facility additions and improvements include:

1. In 1947 four classrooms were added to Twelfth Street School, and the old part of the building was modernized. Again in 1951 two additional rooms were provided.
2. 1948 four classrooms added to the main building at Eastside (Price) School. Then in 1956 and 1957 fourteen additional classrooms, lunchroom, Homemaking and Vocational Agriculture rooms were added.
3. Vocational Agriculture Building 1949.
4. 1952 Southside Elementary school 6 classrooms and in 1958 two additional classrooms were added.

Year

Highlights

1947-1966

5. 1955 Northside School constructed - 10 classrooms, lunchroom.
6. 1953 West End Lunchroom Building.
7. 1957 Junior High Building - 8 classrooms, library, band hall and choral music room.

During the period a total of 52 additional classrooms, 3 lunchrooms, band hall, music rooms, library and two agriculture buildings were added to the school plant.

Improvements to the athletic plant: In 1947, leveled and improved the football field, installed present bleachers to seat 3,350 people (1947), cinder track (1953), New field house (1965), sprinkler system new fences, concession stands and new lighting system.

1954 - Refurnished the school plant with new furniture at a cost of \$28,000.

Improved lighting in all the buildings at a cost of \$20,000 (1950).

Resurfaced tennis courts, and constructed three additional tennis courts.

Installed permanent folding seats in the gymnasium.

Projects to widen streets, new curbs, and gutters, pave streets at various schools.

Approximately \$700,000 for new additions and improvements to the school plant.

School tax increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50.

Taylor Independent School District created by separation from municipal control.

Year

Highlights

1947-1966

Voted three bond issues without a tax increase. The total amount voted was \$475,000.

1. 1948 tenth bond issue in the amount of \$150,000 was approved.
2. Eleventh bond issue was voted in 1955 for \$250,000. This money was used to construct Northside Elementary School and the Junior High School and other school improvements.
3. Twelfth bond issue in 1957 approved \$75,000 to build a gymnasium at Eastside School.

Twelve common school districts were annexed to the Taylor school District which increased the size of the district from 4 sq. miles to 78 sq. miles.

The board passed a policy liberalizing the sick-leave policy for school personnel.

Made available school facilities and cooperated with the community in such enterprises as Teen-Den, Public Library, Summer Recreation Program.

Expanded summer school program to include remedial reading, driver education, and additional academic courses. Programs for pre-school children instituted.

Improved and expanded program of guidance and counseling in high school. Expanded testing program.

Special education units and speech therapist were added.

Added Sociology, Driver Education, Advanced Math, Power Mechanics, Distributive Education, Art to high school program.

Added Vocational Agriculture, Physical Education, Typing, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Chemistry, Physics and music program to Eastside School.

Year

Highlights

1947-1966

Educational TV added to the curriculum.

Professional personnel required to attend school periodically.

Expanded the music program to include elementary schools.

Miscellaneous items:

1. Administered the integration program.
2. School plant survey to determine needs.
3. Re-examination program in the school district which increased the evaluation from \$13,000,000 to \$22,000,000.
4. Expanded bus transportation.
5. Expanded the lunchroom operation to include five schools.
6. Preparation of handbook outlining administrative and board policies.
7. Participation of a number of scholarship offerings (Melasky and Gernert Scholarship Funds).
8. Provision for full-time clerical assistants for elementary and high school principals.
9. Activated various programs financed by the Federal Government.
10. Coordinated the proposed building program which resulted in the thirteenth bond issue and the construction of the present high school (North Main location).

YearHighlights

1966-1969

John F. Townley was appointed superintendent in 1966. Mr. Townley's administration will last three years - until 1969.

The administrative offices were moved from the high school building to downtown offices located on West 3rd Street.

The administrative staff was enlarged to include a Business Manager, Director of Elementary Education and Director of Federal Programs.

The process of integration in the school system was complete.

The thirteenth bond issue was approved on March 21, 1967 after the issue had failed in an earlier election. The amount of this issue was \$1,795,000.

The present high school (North Main) was constructed during 1968 and 1969 at a cost of approximately \$1,500,000.

Mr. Townley resigned his position in the spring of 1969 to become superintendent of the Irving Public Schools.

YearHighlights

1969-1975

Joe Scrivner was appointed superintendent in 1969. Mr. Scrivner is the ninth superintendent of the Taylor Schools and he is now in his sixth year as superintendent.

The new high school building was complete in the summer of 1969. Occupied for the first time in September 1969 and dedicated on October 5, 1969.

The old high school building and the junior high building were organized into the Middle School (grades 5, 6, 7, 8).

Extensive repairs were made to the old high school.

Problems arising from integration were solved.

Bus transportation was expanded and improved.

The administrative offices were moved back to the school campus and now occupies the former Vocational Agriculture Building.

Southside and Eastside Schools were closed and the pupils assigned to the other elementary schools.

The Federal Programs were expanded in the Taylor Schools.

Educational offerings have increased...teaching techniques and procedures have been improved.

All outstanding indebtedness from bond issues except the Issue of 1967 will be paid off during 1975.

To date, the citizens of Taylor have voted a total of \$2,702,000 in bonds over the 91 years to provide adequate school buildings and equipment for the boys and girls who have attended the Taylor Schools.

This ends the record compiled by T.H. Johnson in 1975, with various trivia tidbits and information about the development of the Taylor Independent School System.

More has transpired since 1975....

The following covers the next 41 years, ending in 2016.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Highlights</u>
1982	Construction for a new elementary campus began.
1983	T.H. Johnson Elementary School construction was completed and the campus opened for the 1983 school year.
1998	Naomi Pasemann Elementary School opened, with Ms. Pasemann, former principal, still very much involved with education in Taylor to date.
2000	A dedicated campus just for middle school was opened in the fall of 2000, just off Carlos G. Parker Boulevard, on the north side of Taylor.
2007	Legacy High School, early college repertory school opened in Aug, 2007. Per Texas State requirements the school had to be adjacent to a college. In order to achieve that, temporary portables arrived in Aug, 2010, and were set up on 5th Street between Main and Porter.
2011	The newest Taylor High School opened in August 2011, constructed on the south side of town off of Carlos G. Parker Blvd on FM 973.
2012	The former high school on North Main was converted into administration offices and a campus for Intermediate Grades. The campus was renamed Main Street Intermediate School.
2015	After a \$7 million bond election failed in 2013, the school board came back with a \$21 million bond

package that passed by a narrow margin. These funds will be used for:

1. A new Legacy Early High School Campus (currently in portables on 5th Street) at \$3.5 million.
2. New Field House at the High School at \$4.6 million.
3. \$4.4 million for a combined football and soccer stadium that includes lights and a competition-grade track.
4. \$1.2 million for a softball and baseball complex, all at Taylor High School.
5. Other money in the bond will build an agriculture barn at the High School and provide an upgrade for security at Taylor Middle School.

2016

The old middle school on 7th Street Campus was sold to local developers, after a lengthy bid and re-bid process.