

History: Dickinson Independent School  
District

- 1891 First public school in Dickinson. This was a one room school held at the local Methodist Church, attended by 40 children ages 8 - 18 of mostly Protestant, Anglo-Saxon blood. Minnie Owens was the first tax paid teacher handling primary through grades 6-7. School was funded for six months at about \$30 per month with donations providing necessities not covered in the budget. The 30x40 foot building was originally designed as a church with a steeple and a pulpit, yet contained home built desks and seats and a floor blackboard. Situated on the grounds of the present Dickinson cemetery, the little white building served students living along the length of the Dickinson Bayou. Students came to school on foot, in horse or ox drawn buggy or wagon, and by rowboat.
- 1900 September- The original building was razed to the ground by the hurricane. Both school and church relocated to an old exhibition building used in 1895 by the Texas Gulf Coast Fair.
- 1901 New building erected: a two story white frame building erected close to the site of the first school. Separation of church and school began.
- 1903 It was now a two teacher school. Mr. Joe Lyle was principal and Dagmar Henneson was teacher.
- 1910 First class finished in Dickinson consisting of three ladies. They commuted by the interurban to Ball High in Galveston to complete their last year.
- 1913 Third building constructed. This was a two story brick building. Mr. J. I. Hoshal was principal.
- 1914 Approximately. A high school was added.
- 1920 New school built for Grade 1 - 11. This is the site

of the present Administration Building.

1938 New building housing Grades 7 - 11 was constructed on what is now McAdams campus. The original structure included the H Building containing classrooms and offices, Home Economics building cafeteria, boy's gym, shop area and 950 seat auditorium.

1939 Construction of Dunbar facility to house black students, Grades 1 - 11.

1941 Formation of Dickinson Independent School District, Martin Belcher, Superintendent. Enrollment: 594 students.

1945 Dr. O. J. Baker came as Superintendent of Schools

1953 Consolidation of Bacliff and San Leon communities with Dickinson Independent School District. Construction of Bacliff Elementary wings A & B and Dickinson Primary School wings B & C plus covered play area.

1956 Additions to facilities:

Bacliff: present resource center and covered play area

Dunbar: gymnasium, maintenance building, Primary building

McAdams: new cafeteria, girl's gym, "M" Building with 14 classrooms.

1962 Addition to facilities:

Bacliff: additional classrooms

Primary: Wing A, cafeteria and kitchen

Dunbar: dressing room for gym, food preparation area, east side of present main building.

McAdams: Industrial arts building, science building, music building.

1965 Philip Carona was Acting Superintendent while Dr. Baker was at the Job Corps in Gary.

Additions to facilities:

Bacliff: additional classrooms

Primary: additional classrooms

Dunbar: west side of main building

McAdams: additional classrooms and library

High School: present facility constructed for Junior

High use consisting of a co-ed gym, cafeteria, classroom areas, and baseball field. All campuses were airconditioned.

1967 Initial efforts at integration. Students had freedom of choice. Black students provided their own transportation if they chose to attend white campuses. Black teachers were placed as follows: Primary- 1, Junior High School- 2 and a nurse, High School- 1, Bacliff- 0. Dunbar already had a few white teachers.

1968 Full integration. Facilities reorganized: Primary 1-3, Bacliff 1-5, Dunbar 4&5, Junior High School 6-8, High School 9-12.

Additions to facilities;

Bacliff: wing C constructed, new cafetorium.

McAdams: snack bar and mechanical control building

High School: expansion of facility to accomodate High School. Additional classrooms, band hall, auditorium, girl's gym, field house, vocational complex, expanded cafeteria.

A. J. Labay, Superintendent.