

**Notes of Brent Lapsley's Conversation with Mayor Harrington
Concerning High School Enrollment Growth and Ninth Grade Campuses**

Mayor Harrington was Klein High School principal at the time it was the only high school in the district. During his tenure, Klein ISD experienced tremendous growth and the need for and opening of a second high school.

When Klein High School enrollment became "comfortably snug" an existing intermediate school "across the parking lot" (approximately 200 yards) was converted to a ninth grade campus. This was done to delay the development of a second high school.

An assistant principal was assigned to the ninth grade campus at Klein. If a ninth grade campus is utilized Mayor Harrington recommends that an independent principal be assigned only to that campus and not an assistant that under the supervision of the high school principal.

Difficulties included coordinating functions like pep rallies, choir concerts, guest performers, etc. Another difficulty was movement between the campuses for teachers that taught 9th grade classes and 10 – 12 classes and students taking advanced classes. An additional two minutes was allowed for students moving between campuses.

During high growth times the development of a second high school should be put off as long as possible so that the second school can open and offer full academic and remedial programs equal to the first high school.

Klein split into two high schools the year after 9 – 12 enrollment reached 3600 and growth projections indicated continued strong growth for numerous years. When the second high school was opened it did not include a senior class. All seniors stayed at Klein High School and were allowed to graduate together. The enrollment of that senior class was about 1125.

When you open a second high school too early both high schools suffer in the areas of advanced academic and remedial programs and extra curricular activities.

Economically a school district should consider a 9th grade campus before opening a second high school.

