



#40: Whatever Happened to the East and Mount Houston School District

In the 1940s and 1950s, the East & Mount Houston school district, which was just south of Humble, did not have a high school of their own. Their high school students attended Charles Bender High School in Humble. The addition of the East & Mount Houston high school students was a good boost to Humble's student population, and the increased enrollment allowed Humble ISD to hire more teachers and offer more classes.

In 1950, the Humble ISD school board was approached by parents of the East & Mount Houston school district. They wanted Humble to annex the East & Mount Houston district, and eventually build more schools in their neighborhood. The East & Mount Houston Superintendent and School Board were against the idea. Weighing the pros and cons, Superintendent Burton and the Humble ISD School Board decided to support the idea of annexation, since an eventual loss of the East & Mount Houston high school students would have adverse effects on Charles Bender High School (a decline in efficiency, variety of offerings and an increase in the expensiveness per pupil).

In March 1950, the Humble ISD School Board set-up an election to annex the East & Mount Houston School District. The annexation decision went to a vote of the citizens of Humble. The Humble citizens were afraid the annexation would eventually lead to them having less control over the district, and the annexation was rejected by the voters.

But, what happened to the East and Mount Houston school district after that? A few years later, in 1959, the district changed its name to the Northeast Houston Independent School District. There was an attempt in the district (which was mostly white) to desegregate their schools, but in 1961 their voters overwhelmingly voted to support segregation. In 1966, a controversy erupted in the school district because two African Americans had managed to do well in a school board election due to write-in votes. They were eventually defeated in a run-off election.

The district changed its name to North Forest Independent School District in 1971, and schools were integrated during the 1970s. The school district suffered from recurring academic and management problems starting in the late 1980s. During the early 2000's, the district was frequently at odds with the Texas Education Agency. The State shut down the district in July 2013 due to continuous low academic performance, and the area was absorbed into the Houston Independent School District.