

History of Leeds Schools

On May 1, 2001 the firm of Massey and Stotser was retained by the Leeds City Council for the purpose of conducting an Educational Assessment and Feasibility Study. The purpose of the study was to collect data concerning the educational functionality and current levels of funding utilized to educate the children of Leeds. Additionally, the study was to determine the feasibility of establishing a separate board of education under the auspices of the City of Leeds to direct the educational process within its schools.

Massey and Stotser presented the Educational Assessment and Feasibility Study on August 3, 2001. The Study included that if Leeds was to fulfill its desire to move forward and become the expanding city which it envisions, it would be necessary to change the image and perception of its schools. The data supported the supposition that conditions existed that would allow the City of Leeds to establish its own board of education within the current resources. The data also indicated that the buildings within the Leeds campuses were among the oldest in Jefferson County [Except the addition to elementary building, 1995.] One thing was clearly evident from the Assessment and Feasibility Study; steps should be taken to provide educational opportunities to the students of Leeds that were at least on a par with their peers throughout the area.

On September 20, 2001, the Leeds City Council installed members of the City of Leeds Board of Education. The Board of Education's charge was to provide assistance in determining the feasibility of forming a new city school. The Board was to determine the process for development of the system, if feasible, and separation from the Jefferson County School System.

The City of Leeds Board of Education began the process to establish the school system in 2001. Since the City of Leeds included property in Shelby, Jefferson and St. Clair, the Board negotiated separation agreements with the three (3) school systems. The Board submitted the required documentation to the United States Department of Justice. On June 13, 2003 The United States District Court For the Northern District of Alabama Southern Division approved the separation of the City of Leeds School District from its parent system, Jefferson County Schools.

Leeds City Schools current student population of 1345 are being educated in three (3) schools (Leeds Elementary, Leeds Middle, and Leeds High) which lie within the city limits. The current structures being utilized within the three (3) schools of Leeds are as follows:

Leeds Elementary – Consists of three (3) buildings constructed in 1937 and 1965 with additions in 1976 and 1995 respectively. Kindergarten wing renovated in 2004. The buildings house 50,347 usable square feet.

Leeds Middle - Consists of three (3) buildings constructed in 1949, 1960 and 1966 respectively. The buildings house 48,276 usable square feet.

Leeds High - Consists of three (3) buildings constructed in 1948, 1954, and 1978 with additions in 1955, 1962, and 1968 respectively. The buildings house 70,548 of usable square feet.