

**Hillsboro Cluster Meeting**  
**September 22, 2005**  
**Minutes**

Attendance: Mary Kennedy (Hillsboro)  
Lee Norton (J. T. Moore)  
Theresa Doyle (Glendale)  
Tania Carter (Eakin)  
Stephanie Dodson (West End Middle)  
Donna Smith (Eakin)  
Lynn Sherman (Eakin/Encore)  
Leslie DiNella (Percy Priest)  
Kathy Garcia (Sylvan Park)  
Nancy Nolan (Sylvan Park)  
Melanie Leader (Percy Priest)  
Carol Ballenger (Julia Green)  
Sally Goodrich (Hillsboro)  
Bitsy Ward (Eakin and West End)  
Vivian Brandon Houston (J. T. Moore)

The meeting opened with Mary Kennedy (Hillsboro High) giving the welcome and asking for introductions and roster updates.

The prospective parent open house dates were compiled and passed around for inspection.

Mary opened the discussion of Communication Guidelines for the Cluster Reps. Initially, all cluster reps were advised about keeping communications within our group and to advise the respective PTSA presidents and principals of any communications before they are made public. All cluster reps should meet monthly with their principals to hear about concerns and issues. There was more discussion by Sally Goodrich (Hillsboro) that all communications needs to be reviewed by the PTSA presidents and principals before going out on listserv or to the general parent population. The discussion continued regarding ways to communicate with our school board member, Kathleen Harkey. The cluster reps were encouraged to implement individual email lists for all the other reps.

A report was delivered by Carol Ballenger regarding the Parent Advisory Council. She provided handouts of an organizational chart of the central office and the '05-06 Division Goals and Plans. Carol also presented a handout from Congressman Jim Cooper regarding Military Academy Day, 10/1/05, held at the downtown library. The highlights of the PAC meeting were presented: Dr. Garcia proclaimed that his initial 52 objectives had been met; ELL has excelled; all schools will be ADA compliant; the Call Center (Customer Service Center) is being effective; and a beginning discussion of whether under-utilized schools should be closed.

Discussion was opened about the defeat of the Sales Tax Referendum and what do the schools do now. The various topics discussed were: should low enrollment schools be addressed; should zones be juggled; transportation costs should be addressed; magnet schools; the need to make neighborhood schools the best they can be; concern for class size. The PAC meeting will be held this same night and will discuss some of these very issues. The cluster reps were reminded to discuss facts with their school populations, not rumors.

The next topic was the need for Cluster news in the schools' newsletters. Reps were advised to make it a regular practice to place newsworthy items in the newsletter. Just remember to advise the PTSA president or principal of any item before publishing on newsletter or listserv. The prospective parent Open Houses would be an example of a newsworthy item.

There was much discussion of the Encore program. There seemed to be some concerns that the program is being diluted, although the fact that Encore is now on site at various schools was viewed as a positive. It was decided that communications with Central Office would be practical.

The Principals' portion of the meeting began at 12:40. Several principals were present including J. T. Moore, Eakin, Glendale, Hillsboro, West End Middle, and Percy Priest. Sally Goodrich asked the 6 principals present if they had concerns about Encore and all reported that they were happy, especially with on-site location. Then Sally asked for introductions and a short discussion of meeting locations. Some principals preferred changing the location to a different school each time.

All the principals reported a good start to the school year. They gave encouraging reports regarding the hurricane evacuees at each school.

Sally Goodrich adjourned the meeting at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted by

Vivian Brandon Houston  
J. T. Moore