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**Westampton School District  
Key Communicator's Meeting Synopsis  
November 22, 2013**



**Virginia M. Grossman, Superintendent  
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KEY COMMUNICATOR'S MEETING: NOVEMBER 20, 2013

AUTUMN GOAL SYNOPSIS:

To continue to capitalize on the Key Communicator Meeting structure that was developed in the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, Back to School Night was utilized as a platform for invitations to the Key Communicators Meetings for the 2013-2014 school year. Personal phone call invitations were made by the Superintendent for participants recommended by Board of Education members and school colleagues. Global Phone Messaging was utilized to invite every parent to the first meeting as well. The meeting was held at 7:00 pm in Room #2 of the WMS on November 20, 2013 to review our State of the Schools report and coordinating Action Plan. Twenty-three people participated in the meeting.

Remaining meeting dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – TOPIC: Curricula
- Wednesday, February 26, 2014 – TOPIC: School Budget Proposal

The responses to our November 20<sup>th</sup> topics will be posted on the school website after Board of Education review.

These meetings will give us a new way of opening communication with our parent/guardian and community stakeholders. The consensus was that because the meeting did not focus solely on assessment data, it was well received. The focus shifted to school improvement, which is our common goal.

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS: The Superintendent and Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction would like to thank the Board of Education for their support of the Key Communicator Meeting Initiative. We are hopeful that participation will increase in the meetings to come.

**Westampton School District  
Key Communicator's Meeting Plan  
November 20, 2013**

**MEETING OBJECTIVE:** Key Communicators will be able to convey, in a structured forum, comments and concerns about pressing issues at Westampton Schools to prepare for writing our district strategic plan.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** (Name Tags)

**MISSION VISION READING:**

*The Westampton School District, in partnership with its Community, shall do whatever it takes to ensure that every child achieves or exceeds proficiency in the current New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.*

*Be open! Be creative! Be accountable!*

*Our vision is to create a climate where the Community and District support the instructional process by incorporating an effective, comprehensive communication system that incorporates the whole child as its driving force involving parents, staff and the Community by utilizing appropriate data to challenge the students and teachers to maximize each student's level of achievement.*

**OPENING ACTIVITY: Think/Pair/Share:** As participants enter the Library, a large paper will be displayed on the wall and participants will be invited to write concerns, comments and questions about the school, fostering inquiry and later discussion. Participants do not have to sign or identify themselves.

**STATE OF THE SCHOOL REPORT:** Power Point explanation of the student progress and our plan to close the achievement gap(s) will ensue.

**GROUP THINK AND SHARE:** Two groups will then be formed to ponder and discuss the topics below.

1. The implementation of the National Core Curriculum Content Standards in Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics implications therein.
2. Concerns expressed by participants upon entering the meeting.

**CLOSING:** Participants use a sticky-note card to share impressions of our plan for improvement. Responses remain anonymous.

## QUESTIONS?

FOLLOW-THROUGH: Results of Key Communicator Meetings will be found on our website.

## MEETING SYNOPSIS:

KEY POINTS: District Adequate Yearly Progress (AMO) Status and 2013 NJ ASK, MAP and literacy data analysis was discussed via Power Point. Initiatives for improvement were integrated into the presentation.

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### KEY MEETING ELEMENTS: National Common Core Standards

- Making students more independent
  - Application of Common Core skills in real-world situations
  - Increase in rigor
  - Increase the text complexity
  - Have students read text independently, even if it is at their frustration level
  - Teach reading and writing skills in social studies and science
  - Increase the amount of nonfiction reading and writing
  - Teach students to be meta-cognitive thinkers and learners
  - Assist parents and guardians with asking the right questions of their children about school.
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## KEY COMMUNICATORS' SUGGESTIONS AND CONCERNS:

### SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS:

Communicate what students will be learning in each grade level  
Use electronic communication  
Update/upgrade teacher websites  
Reinstate teacher newsletters

### SCHOOL CLIMATE:

Bus safety is a concern  
Class size is a concern  
Full time Child Study Team Director needed

### ACADEMICS AND LEARNING:

Closing the achievement gap among the sub-groups  
Teachers meeting the needs of Special Education Students IEP/504  
Teachers meeting the needs of students on the Autism Spectrum  
Upgrading the rigor of the curriculum  
Prefer a daily homework and classwork return as opposed to Friday Folders  
Disseminating the criterion for Reading Enrichment  
Disseminating the criterion for Honors Programs at WMS  
Readiness for participation in Honors Programs/AP at in High Schools  
Not Enough homework  
District preparation for the new state assessment: PARCC  
Curriculum alignment with the NJ state curriculum standards

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NJ state curriculum standards are the Common Core standards in math and language arts literacy  
Parent/Guardian workshops requested regarding the new math curricula.  
Textbooks are not being brought home  
(Explained that our curricula is not textbook based)

**FISCAL:**

School funding is a concern  
Long range planning  
The lack of support staff is a concern  
Maintaining all programs at present

**PHYSICAL PLANT:**

Lack of event parking is a concern  
Plumbing at HHS is a concern

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