

As we take part in Homecoming Week here in WCSD #7, I want to convey the importance of the importance of honoring tradition and community during times where we also want to move forward and create new systems of thinking to best prepare our students for the next stages of their lives.

As part of our work to ensure that our system is providing for that, we have begun the process of redefining, redesigning, and reimagining our system to be the “Best on Earth.” Staff participated in a day to examine our existing strategic design and determine those areas in which we are succeeding and identifying areas in which we can adjust or redesign with students at the center of our work. During those sessions, we worked on our shared values, mission, and profile of a learner for our system based on needs for the future. Those elements will continue to be shared with students, families, and the community to garner feedback and support.

One area in which parents and the community can continue to be involved is with a community book study. We will join together to read *Why School: How Education Must Change When Learning and Information are Everywhere* by Will Richardson. This book from 2012 illuminates the need for school systems to reconsider their approach . If you are interested in joining the study, please send me an email at [sstephens@weston7.org](mailto:sstephens@weston7.org). We look forward to the conversations!