**EXERCISES VI - VIII: Rituals, Ceremonies and Traditions**

**Rituals**

Think about a time in your past when a school closed, a program ended, a staff member left, a textbook was retired, or something else of major significance came to an end.

How was the ending affirmed?

What rituals most helped people through those endings?

Have there been endings in your school/district that have not had proper closure? If so, what kind of ritual could be designed to promote healing and letting go?

**Ceremonies**

Identify which of these ceremonies occur in your school/district and what they celebrate: opening day, seasonal, management, integrative (to meld diverse groups of all kinds), recognition, homecoming, memorial, etc.

What message, value, or norm do the ceremonies communicate and reinforce?

Are there ceremonies in your school/district that no longer have meaning, are simply seen as requirements, or reinforce negativity?

Can you identify a dead ceremony that needs to be revived? One that needs to be buried?

**Traditions**

Traditions are events or actions that occur from year to year that build a sense of continuity, reinforce values, and build community. School leaders actively assess their traditions and make them more meaningful.

What are your school’s/district’s traditions, and what meaning do they have for faculty, students, and community?