



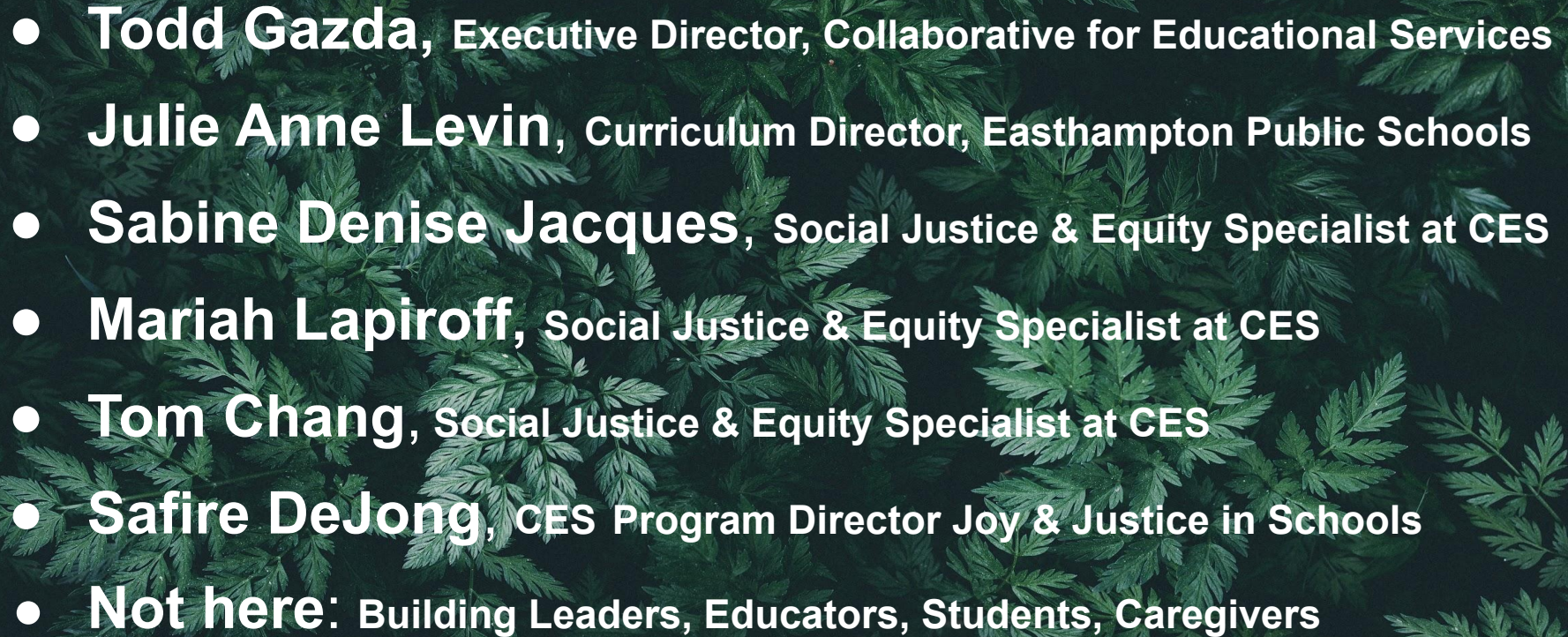
Building Bridges for Equity in Polarizing Times MASS/MASC 2023

Wednesday, November 8th 3:15 – 4:30

A partnership between the
Collaborative for Educational Services
and Easthampton Public Schools



collaborative.org
Collaborative for Educational Services

- 
- **Todd Gazda**, Executive Director, Collaborative for Educational Services
 - **Julie Anne Levin**, Curriculum Director, Easthampton Public Schools
 - **Sabine Denise Jacques**, Social Justice & Equity Specialist at CES
 - **Mariah Lapiroff**, Social Justice & Equity Specialist at CES
 - **Tom Chang**, Social Justice & Equity Specialist at CES
 - **Safire DeJong**, CES Program Director Joy & Justice in Schools
 - **Not here**: Building Leaders, Educators, Students, Caregivers

73% of Americans say
Democrats and Republicans
don't only disagree
on matters of opinion and policy,
but can't even agree
on the basic facts.

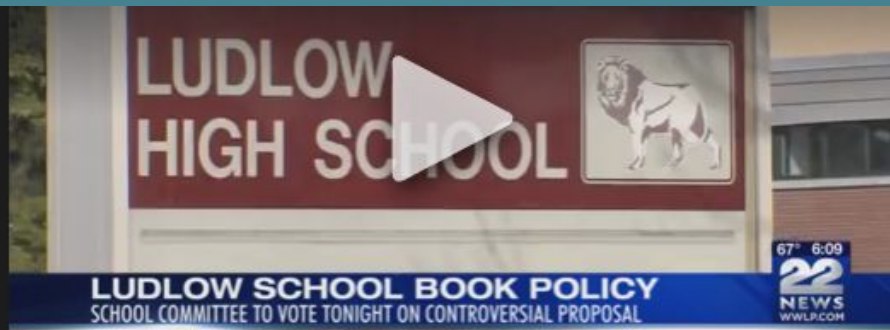
HAMPDEN COUNTY

Ludlow School Committee to vote on controversial proposal

by: [Melissa Torres](#)

Posted: Jun 13, 2023 / 06:49 AM EDT

Updated: Jun 13, 2023 / 10:43 PM EDT



☰ **CNN** **US** [Crime + Justice](#) [Energy + Environment](#) [More](#)

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After use of 'ladies' in email ends one school superintendent candidacy, another candidate reportedly withdrew after old social media posts surface



By Kristina Sgueglia and [Omar Jimenez](#), CNN

Updated 6:30 PM EDT, Fri April 21, 2023

A recent study by
the Pew Research Center
found that roughly 80% of
Democrats and Republicans
feel coldly towards the other party,
an increase of more than
20 percentage points
from just two years earlier.

In Amherst, teen journalists' investigation of transphobia at the middle school forced a district shake-up

High schoolers published report in student newspaper that shook this college town, long considered an LGBTQ-friendly, liberal enclave.



Students in teacher Sara Barber-Just's Journalistic Writing class at Amherst Regional High School published an explosive investigation in the high school newspaper, *The Graphic*, detailing accounts of anti-transgender bullying and discrimination at the nearby Amherst Regional Middle School. *John Tlumacki / The Boston Globe*

North Brookfield School Committee reverses previous action, votes to keep Indian mascot



Kim Ring

Telegram & Gazette

Published 7:20 p.m. ET Oct. 20, 2021 | Updated 9:13 a.m. ET Oct. 21, 2021



Franklin High School Student Heckled By Parent After Discussing Bullying During School Committee Meeting

Parents upset Billerica schools invited indicted activist Monica Cannon-Grant to give speech



THE RIGHT-WING
MOTHERS FUELLING THE
SCHOOL-BOARD WARS

How one Mass. school board got caught in the culture wars



Another study found that
15% of Republicans and
20% of Democrats
say that the country
would be better if large numbers
of the opposing party just died.

(Kalmoe and Mason 2018)



A REUTERS SPECIAL REPORT

School boards get death threats amid rage over race, gender, mask policies

Officials pledge to 'build bridges' at emotional Easthampton School Committee meeting

Dr. Safire DeJong of the Collaborative for Educational Services addresses the Easthampton School Committee on April 25, 2017. DeJong has been retained to help Easthampton High School transform its culture to one of greater inclusivity and equity.



Constructivist Listening Dyads



- Introduce yourselves
- What brings you to this session?
- What's coming up for you when you look at these headlines?



Othering, Belonging, Breaking & Bridging

Bridging to Belonging Curriculum

Analysis and Case Study

DATE

Nov 8, 2023

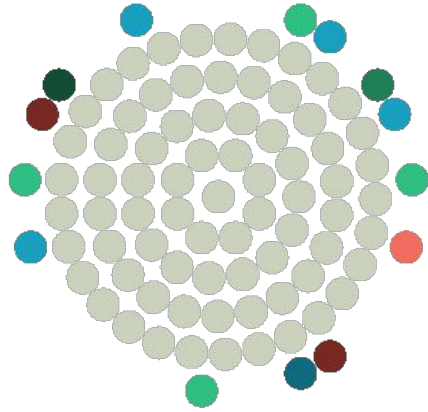
PRESENTER

Sabine Denise Jacques
Julie Anne Levin
Mariah Lapiroff
Safire DeJong
Tom Chang

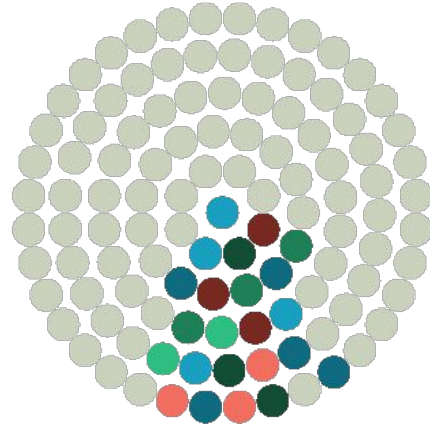
AUTHORIAL SUPPORT

Gerald Lenoir
Miriam Magaña Lopez
Ashley Gallegos
Tanya Díaz

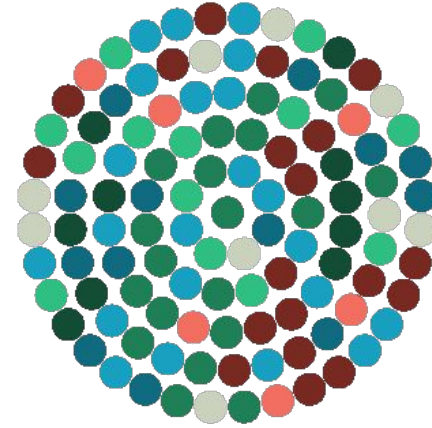
What do the images in this slide mean to you?



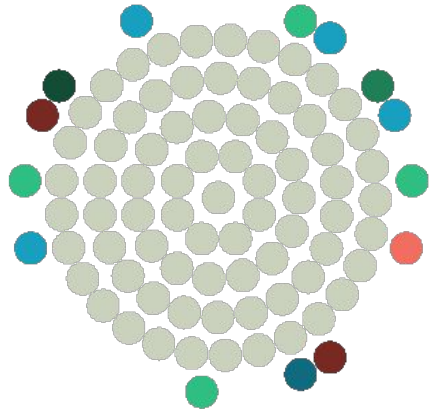
Exclusion



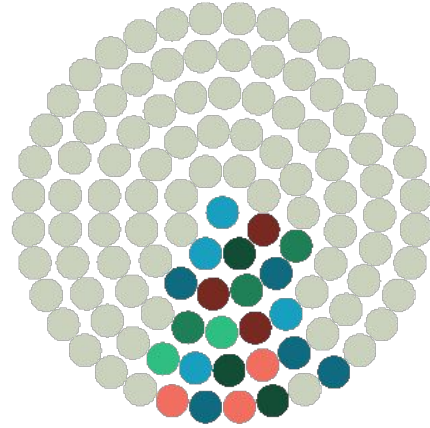
Integration



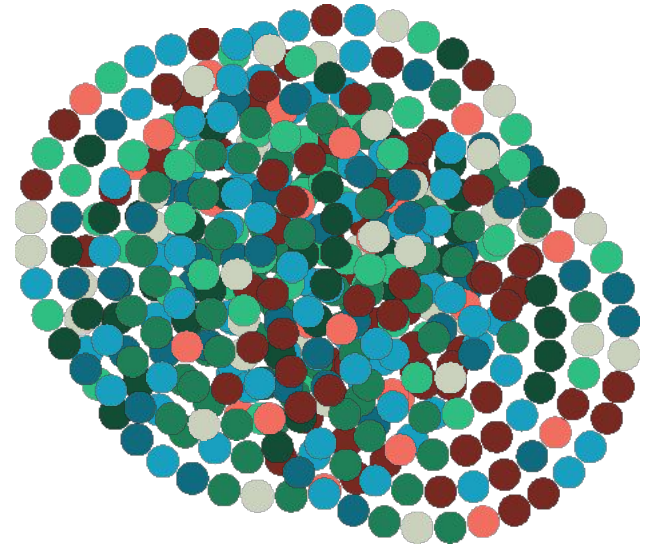
Inclusion



Exclusion



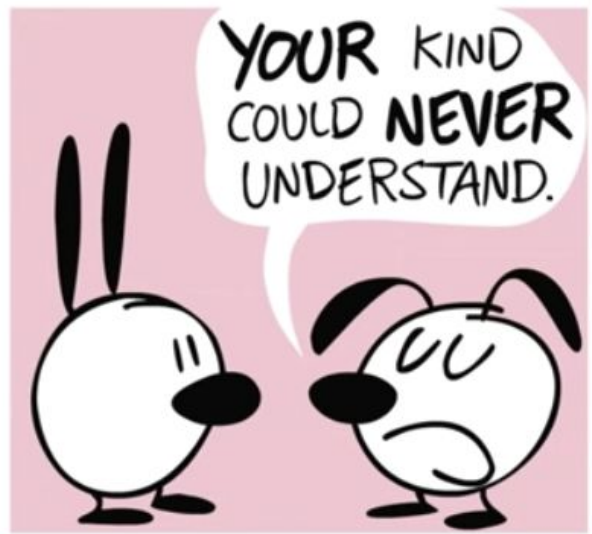
Integration



Belonging



mimiandunice.com

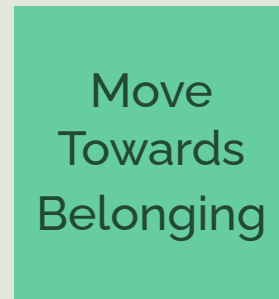


What do we want?

Barriers

Decisions we can make

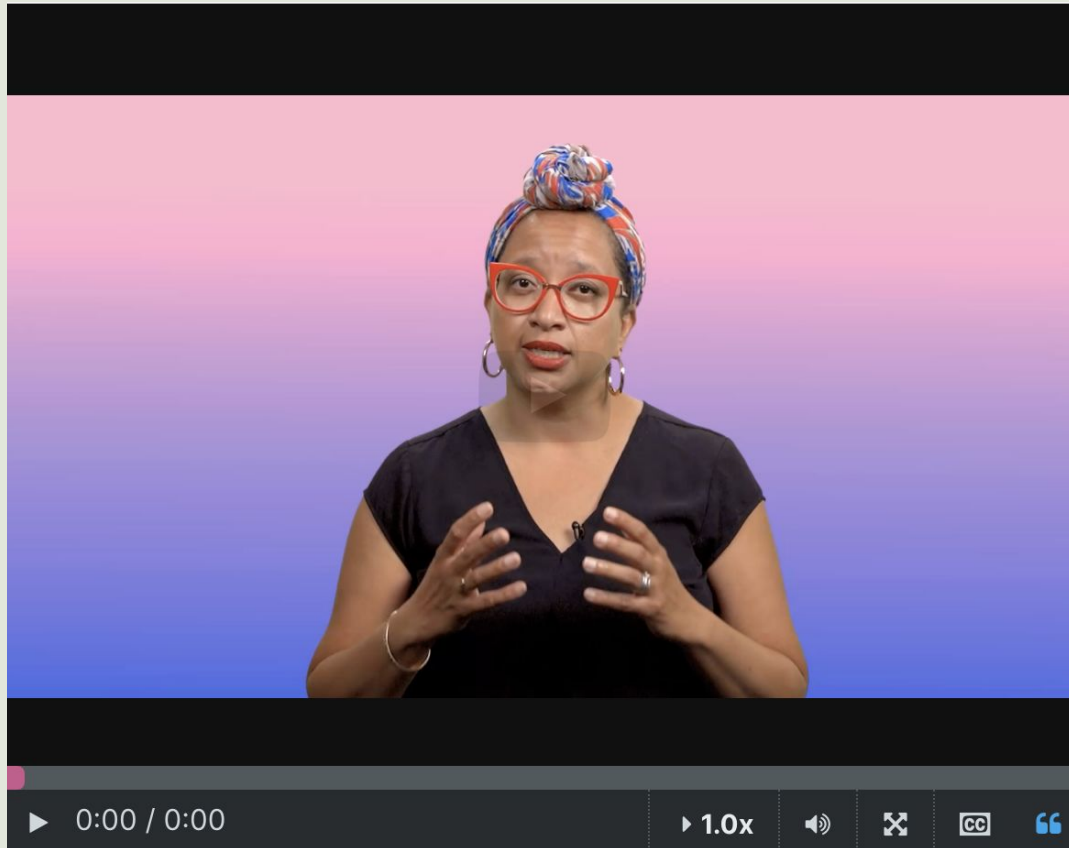
Outcomes



Breaking

Breaking is a response driven by fear and isolation. A breaking response might look like staying with what we know and who we know, rather than opening up to a new opportunity. A breaking dynamic exists when one group turns against an 'outsider' group; the 'otherness' and threat of the out-group can build psychological or physical walls between the two groups. A breaking dynamic can be driven by policies, leaders, narratives and structures that pin people against each other.

What Bridging Is and Isn't





A Bridging to Belonging Story



◊ WE THE PEOPLE ◊

ARE GREATER THAN FEAR

WWW.EQUALHUMANITY.ORG

What stories are out there about what's required for young people to be safe in schools?

Skills for Bridging Differences

- Learn about bridging
- Challenge your views
- Active listening
- Compassionate speaking
- Recognize shared identities and values
- Identify common goals
- Intergroup contact
- Applying bridging differences to your life



BerkeleyX: Bridging Differences

Learn research-based strategies for better relationships, dialogue, and understanding across divides. Relevant to anyone navigating conflicts and differences, especially geared toward college campuses.



8 weeks

2-3 hours per week



Self-paced

Progress at your own speed



Free

Optional upgrade available

Register for this free course:

Bridging Difference



joy +
justice
team

collaborative.org

Contact us:
sdejong@collaborative.org

