

**Meeting on the Bridges Intergenerational Program  
Sudbury Senior Center and Sudbury Public Schools**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

March 4, 10:30 am at Peter Noyes School Conference Room

Attending:

Sudbury Public Schools:

Kim Swain, Asst. Superintendent, Kristin Moffitt, Vice Principal, Leo Flanagan, Principal, Scott Mulcahy, Vice Principal

Sudbury Senior Center/Council on Aging:

Debra Galloway, Senior Center Director, Sharon Wilkes, Senior Center Program Coordinator, Bob Diefenbacher, Sudbury Council on Aging Intergenerational Coordinator, John Beeler, Sudbury Council on Aging

1. Agenda:

Review of the First 3 Schools

- a. Senior Volunteers
- b. Students
- c. Teachers

2. Areas of Discussion

- a. Curriculum
- b. Timing of School Sessions
- c. Training
- d. Other

3. Next Steps

Meeting Summary

Bob presented the plan for evaluating Bridges approved by the COA. We reviewed two reports: Feedback from volunteers, and a Survey of Feedback from teachers (appx. 13 responses.)

Volunteers said:

- 4 weeks is not enough time to get to know the students.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in September and October were still quite immature and acting like 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
- Program varies between teachers
- Lesson plans need more customization to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level
  - Certain lessons not working well with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
  - Volunteers miss some lessons now eliminated
- Plan for snow days
- Concerns about parking at Loring in May/June

Teachers rated 6 attributes of the program on a scale of 1 – 4 where 4 = Satisfied, 3= Somewhat Satisfied, 2 = Neutral, and 1 = Dissatisfied

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Score</b>
Schedule	2.4
Session Topics	3.2
Student Activities	3.0
Homework	2.5
Communication	2.5

Overall Experience	2.8
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A number of issues and opinions were shared in an atmosphere of cooperation and problem solving. The attendees agreed to the importance of continuing an intergenerational program in Sudbury Elementary Schools going forward.

Some thoughts shared:

- Timing is a problem
  - Fall for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade really doesn't seem to work well
- Could we do two schools concurrently?
- Possibly do 2 third grades in spring and 2 fourth grades in fall?
- Redo the curriculum and pilot it in a couple of schools/classes, starting small scale.
- Seek the input of teachers as a new curriculum is developed.
- Transition away from the current Bridges curriculum to a new curriculum that involves an intergenerational methodology in Sudbury Schools.
- Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade write an autobiography as part of helping them see themselves in context of their community of students, etc.
- Two ideas for name of new curriculum suggested:
  - Perspectives – *Learning to appreciate each other*
  - The Link - *An Intergenerational Experience (or opportunity)*

The meeting concluded with the two groups agreeing to put more thought into moving ahead and agreed to meet at 9:30 am on Monday, April 11 at Noyes School.