

#PubPriBridge chat, 5 May 2014

(EARLY SECTION MISSING)

Welcome! #PubPriBridge emerges from an aspiration to build bridges across difference between public and private school educators.

Last time #PubPriBridge explored Challenges for Middle Managers in schools. Chats are archived at <http://pubpribridge.net/chat-archive>

I'm Peter Gow, a #PubPriBridge founder. Laura Robertson @mamarobertson4 and Chris Thinnies @ChrisThinnies helped frame tonight's chat.

Our #PubPriBridge topic for tonight: WHY DO WE TEACH?

#PubPriBridge wonders: Is it about ideals? Is it just a job? Is it a calling? An art? A craft? A profession?

#PubPriBridge will stipulate to the shortcomings of Twitter as a medium for deep discussion; we'll do the best we can.

#PubPriBridge will be using the Q1/A1 format. Please don't forget to use the #PubPriBridge hashtag

#PubPriBridge Q1: Let's take a few to introduce ourselves. Peter Gow, 40 yrs an indy school T & admin, based near Boston.

#PubPriBridge Q2: Let's take it slowly. How did you come to your first teaching job?

#PubPriBridge Q3: What preparation did you have for teaching? What credentials?

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@gfrblxt @ChrisThinnies](#) Well - it did leave me in girls education, which helped develop my gender activism (on and off campus). [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) I think as a young T it was good for me to have personal mentors (F2F); as an older one, Twitter's been a great source.

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[@gfrblxt](#) Agree on Twitter--and who'd have seen that coming? [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@ChrisThinnies chris thinnies](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) Also re [@pgow](#)'s Q re mentorship: as a leader out of classroom I've been more enmeshed in PLN & multiple mentors.

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

[@bivey @RickWormeli](#) this is why I like [#PubPriBridge](#) seems like a nice convo with friends and interesting folk drop by for coffee. Nice.

[@Mamarobertson4 Laura Robertson](#)

It really helps to have terrific colleagues. My department has always been a source of inspiration and advice.
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@pgow @gfrblxt](#) By the way... what *did* you have for breakfast? [#PubPriBridge](#) ☐ [#sheeshchat](#)

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[@pgow](#) I joined Twitter to follow backchannel convos @ my first [#EduCon](#) 2 yrs ago. Never thought I'd meet so many great folks. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) Q4: If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

[@gfrblxt @pgow](#) right back at you, Mike. Learned a lot from you. [#pubpribridge](#)

[@Mamarobertson4 Laura Robertson](#)

Obviously, the most recent help has come from my fantastic PLN. [@pgow @ChrisThinnes](#) and all the [#PubPriBridge](#) make me a better educator

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[@Mamarobertson4 @ChrisThinnes](#) And right back at YOU guys! [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@gfrblxt @pgow](#) My friend [@bdyck](#) got me to sign up in like 2007 (?) or so. Incredible visionary. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A4 I've always wanted to learn to design guitar effects. Maybe that. I always thought librarian would be cool too.

[@ChrisThinnes chris thinnes](#)

+1 [@mamarobertson4](#) & [@pgow](#) TG for the shade and stability you provide under the [#PubPriBridge](#)!

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A4. I've always joked "toll-taker" on the Turnpike, but can't actually imagine much else. Too old to be a highwayman now.

[@ChrisThinnes chris thinnes](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A4. I'd be that guy in Starbucks pretending to write a commissioned screenplay.

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@ChrisThinnes](#) I would come in every night to prep and drink lattes and encourage you. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

I've always liked dishwashing. Seriously. Otherwise, back then... maybe engineering. Now - social justice work.
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

And now I am learning to put my CEO hat on, but being a teacher is a CEO 5-6 times a day. Just smaller scale.
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@Mamarob@Mamarobertson4 Laura Robertson](#)

Q4: If I had all the money in the world, I'd probably still teach. But I'd love to be a midwife or a Doula:)
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@ChrisThinnes chris thinnes](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) Re [@pgow](#)'s Q re mentorship: I've always been a serial monogamist. Team collaborator but always a go-to mentress.

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) I think as a young T it was good for me to have personal mentors (F2F); as an older one, Twitter's been a great source.

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

I like the composite model. English, physics teacher and amazing cross country coach. All have huge impacts on me. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[@pgow #PubPriBridge](#). And I just realized the power of this experience on my life. Lordy, I'm numb sometimes!

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@pgow](#) And, not to go on forever, [@nancyflanagan](#) and [@TheJLV](#) as principled people living their truths. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) Q5: Have you considered leaving teaching? Why? What kept you in?

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

A5 I have multiple crises of confidence annually. Let's just leave it at that. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@ChrisThinnes chris thinnes](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A5. I haven't considered leaving education. I have thought about leaving independent schools.

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

[@pgow](#) my leaving classroom is more about flexibility and also achieving a new reach. Still part of calling. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A5 I have, many times. Thought I still had something positive to add. But I am changing positions. <http://t.co/hAERrCL5nG>

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@ChrisThinnes](#) I applied to a charter school once. They told me independent school life had ruined me for public education. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A5: Only on those days when toll-taking looked somehow simpler, better. I have crossed to admin dark side, but still "teach"

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[@bivey @ChrisThinnes](#) I would love to know what they meant by that. Did they elaborate? [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@ChrisThinnes](#) You don't know that for sure! [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@Mamarobertson4 Laura Robertson](#)

q5: Never considered leaving. I believe in the job and I love the kids. Can't imagine my life any other way. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

[@bivey @ChrisThinnes](#) I applied at 3 public schools. Similar results. :-> [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@gfrblxt @ChrisThinnes](#) Yes - too unfamiliar with effects of rural poverty, too used to unfettered curriculum.
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[@OChemPrep @bivey @ChrisThinnes](#) Same thing, many yrs ago. [#PubPriBridge](#) Assumed I was "spoiled" by having had perfect Ss in indy schls. Hah!

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@OChemPrep @ChrisThinnes](#) I hear that a lot from people. For me, friends who were public educators helped me process it. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[@bivey @ChrisThinnes](#) Kind of what I figured. So sad that they couldn't see what benefits you'd have brought.
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) Q6: Have you encountered family or friends who have disapproved of or disrespected your choice to teach? How do you respond?

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@pgow](#) A6 ... who disapproved of me teaching in ind. schools, yes. MA certification process was insane back then; an excuse. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

RT [@ChrisThinnes](#): RT [@gfrblxt](#): [#PubPriBridge](#) At some point, it's just teaching. At some point, caring about kids is just that. Setting real...

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) At some point, it's just teaching. At some point, caring about kids is just that. Setting really doesn't matter.

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

A6 I get "summers off"/"tenure" (public school)/"anyone could do it" sometimes. I'm at the ignoring it stage.
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

+1 RT [@gfrblxt](#): A6 I get "summers off"/"tenure" (public school)/"anyone could do it" sometimes. I'm at the ignoring it stage. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@gfrblxt](#) Seriously. Whatcha gonna do?! [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@ChrisThinnes chris thinnes](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A6. I have had fam/friends underestimate the complexity and stakes, but never disrespect the choice.

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[@ChrisThinnes](#) That ain't so bad, then, if they like the choice. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

[@ChrisThinnes](#) That is awesome. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@Perapiteticus Perapiteticus](#)

RT [@ChrisThinnes](#): RT [@gfrblxt](#): [#PubPriBridge](#) At some point, it's just teaching. At some point, caring about kids is just that. Setting real...

[@Perapiteticus Perapiteticus](#)

RT [@gfrblxt: #PubPriBridge](#) At some point, it's just teaching. At some point, caring about kids is just that. Setting really doesn't matter.

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

[@bivey @ChrisThinnes](#) raised in public schools. Thought it was a new path for me. Did not work out. No sour grapes. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@ChrisThinnes chris thinnes](#)

[@pgow @bivey](#) Absolutely. *And* I think it's partially cuz they knew I'd done other stuff--and that it was, therefore, a choice [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

Cutting to the chase as our hour winds down. [#PubPriBridge](#) Q7: What is the most important thing you do as a teacher?

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

A7 To humanize really, really abstract subjects (math, physics). And to make students laugh. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

A7 Help my kids affirm themselves. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

[@pgow](#) A7: inspire joy in learning. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A7. Hopefully let some kids know that there are adults who take them seriously.

[@ChrisThinnes chris thinnes](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A7. At some level, the most important thing I do for students is to learn from them.

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

Pouring it on: [#PubPriBridge](#) Q8: What is the best part of being a teacher? Why?

[@bivey Bill Ivey](#)

A8 Seeing my kids smile. Especially that special satisfied "Yup, I did it." smile. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A8. Hang with people who keep me hopeful and make me think young(er)

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

A8 When someone who never thought they'd "get it" gets it. That's pretty darn close to the best. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow Peter Gow](#)

[@gfrblxt](#) Amen to that! [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@Mamarobertson4 Laura Robertson](#)

q8: THE KIDS are the best part. Seeing them grow, learn, and b do more than they think they can. And the colleagues. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@OChemPrep Julia Winter](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) in my chemistry classes we are always "praying for the epiphany" It's awesome when that happens!
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@gfrblxt Mike Thayer](#)

[@Mamarobertson4](#) That's true too. Seeing student I taught as 9th graders graduate is pretty special. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@ChrisThinnes](#) [chris thinnes](#)

[#PubPriBridge](#) A8. The best part of being a teacher is watching nurture whoop 'nature' every day.

[@pgow](#) Peter Gow

[@gfrblxt](#) [@Mamarobertson4](#) Raise your hand if you cry at graduation. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@OChemPrep](#) Julia Winter

[@pgow](#) [@gfrblxt](#) [@Mamarobertson4](#) I teared up twice during my pitch last night, having my game idea come to life. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@gfrblxt](#) Mike Thayer

[@pgow](#) [@Mamarobertson4](#) Definitely been there. Not every year, but I've been there. [#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow](#) Peter Gow

Not step on anything, but in acknowledgment of the time: As always, thanks for participating in tonight's [#PubPriBridge](#) conversation!

[@ChrisThinnes](#) [chris thinnes](#)

Thanks [@pgow](#) for suave modding, and everyone on [#PubPriBridge](#) for a great exchange!

[@gfrblxt](#) Mike Thayer

Gotta go, [#PubPriBridge](#) folks. Thank you for everything as always. And to [@pgow](#) for moderating!

[@pgow](#) Peter Gow

[#PubPriBridge](#) chats are archived at <http://t.co/jbMsHeIJKd>

[@bivey](#) Bill Ivey

Night, [#PubPriBridge](#)! Another great time together!

[@OChemPrep](#) Julia Winter

[@ChrisThinnes](#) [@pgow](#) what a great way to start the week. If you are ever in Detroit, stop by for coffee!
[#PubPriBridge](#)

[@pgow](#) Peter Gow

G'night, all! ...as the sun sets beneath the [#PubPriBridge](#) As always, great stuff!