

Kitchen Table Conversation Report

Name of Group/Organization: Mme Schultchen's Grade 5 Class, Ecole Agnes Davison School

Conversation Topic: Our City's Future

Date: November 4, 2016

Describe your Conversation: During the morning of November 4, 2016, Andrew Malcolm and Perry Stein, Community Planners at the City of Lethbridge led a planning and visioning activity with a class of Grade 5 students at Ecole Agnes Davidson School.

The activity started by introducing community planning to the students, and a conversation about the role of planning, our City's Master Plan (the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan / Municipal Development Plan) and City Council. The class was then asked to describe their ideal future city (Lethbridge 20 years from now). The students' comments were organized into three main areas: environment, economic and social, using the concept of the "three-legged" sustainability stool; the idea being that a healthy community seeks to balance environmental, social and economic priorities and outcomes, and that each leg supports the others. When one leg is missing the stool falls over.

Listed below are the community priorities, ideas, visions, dreams of the class in each of the three areas.



Environment:

- Recycling
- Clean parks
- Safe places for animals
- Electric vehicles
- Solar panels, wind energy
- Animal shelters (humane)
- Abundant natural resources
- Clean water
- Green—plants and trees
- Clean
- Natural light
- Public bikes (bike shares)

Economic:

- Industrial activity/jobs
- Veterinarian jobs
- Lots of schools—to educate people
- Abundant natural resources

- Encourage redevelopment
- More talented/skilled jobs
- Inclusive employers

- Spend less money on roads
- **More jobs**
- Support business start-ups

Social:

- **Taking care of people**
 - Homeless shelters
 - Schools
 - Health care (like pharmacies)
- Accepting communities
- Homes for everyone
- More local food
- Less drugs
- Police—safety
- **Recognize community needs**
 - Different cultural and linguistic groups
 - More French immersion schools
- Free buses
- Support people with no homes
- Trains and subways
- Safe pet ownership
- Beautiful

- More people outside
- Farms / agriculture → food security
- Sidewalks
 - Different ways to get around (besides cars)
 - Multi-modal transportation
 - Less cars
 - Better traffic
- Safe
- Housing
 - Houses that allow pets (e.g., apartments)
 - Newer neighbourhoods and homes / modern designs
 - Older homes (e.g., Victorian homes)
 - Safe housing
 - Apartments
 - Responsibly sized homes

After brainstorming these ideas, students were given the chance to vote on the community priorities, ideas, visions, dreams that they thought were most important to them. The community priorities, ideas, visions, dreams that received the most votes are highlighted in **Green**.

While the visioning was taking place, a classroom election was also held by secret ballot. The students elected one mayor and two councilors.

With the visioning complete, students were put into groups and tasked with creating a project (building, program, business etc.) that they think could achieve all of the main community priorities (those that received the most votes). After spending time working in their groups, each group



had to present their project to the class. After all the presentations, the mayor and councilors chose the best project to “fund”.

Below is a short description of each project:

1. A new park that includes a school, animal shelter, police station, hospital, day care and homeless shelter.
2. A zoo that runs on alternative energy where people can learn about animals on screens.
3. A new bus service with solar-powered double-decker buses that provide a safe, free, clean way for kids to get to and from school.
4. An update to Henderson Lake Park that includes more playgrounds, a human animal shelter and a revenue generating bike share.

All of the projects focused on being inclusive, environmentally responsible and financially responsible.

