

Kitchen Table Conversation Report

Name of Group/Organization: Mr. Pollio's Grade 6 Class (2), Father Leonard Van Tighem School

Conversation Topic: Our City's Future

Date: September 29, 2016

Describe your Conversation: During the morning of September 29, 2016, Andrew Malcolm and Perry Stein, Community Planners at the City of Lethbridge led a planning and visioning activity with a class of Grade 6 students at Father Leonard Van Tighem 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:

- Not a lot of litter
- No pollution
- Trees
- Habitat for animals
- Green spaces: parks and fields
- Keep nature
 - Ponds
 - River bottom
- Clean
- Animals
- Spotless
- Natural
- Beautiful
- Viewpoints
- Coulees
- Habitat
- Healthy

Economic:

- Local / neighbourhood businesses
- Support for local businesses
- Job opportunities for young adults
- Good jobs: veterinarians, doctors, high tech industry
- River bottom tourist attractions
- Well-paying jobs
- Entry-level jobs
- Big commercial on the west side and restaurants
- Big
- Meeting our needs through jobs
- Strong
- Choice
- Balanced
- Responsible: saving for the future
- Reliable

Social:

- High education
- Safe place
- Big back yards / houses not crowded together
- More alleys and pathways: quicker movement in neighbourhoods
- Schools
- Parks
- River valley bike park
- Safe streets
- Health care
- More skate parks
- Quicker transportation
- Housing choices
 - Farm
- Big houses / mansions
- Apartments
- Opportunities to learn more about the past
- More houses throughout the City
- Waterslide park downtown
- Multi-modal: travel without cars
- Small neighbourhoods
- Nice / friendly / safe
 - No crooks
 - Dogs on leashes
 - No stray cats
- Working together
- Welcoming neighbourhoods
- Well-designed / safe rounds
 - More roundabouts

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 West Lethbridge hospital, located near to new restaurants. The idea being that people would feel safer if they knew there was a hospital close to them, and the hospital would create lots of skilled jobs.
2. A strip mall development that features a school, police station, and spaces for local businesses. The mall will create jobs (including for disabled people). There would also be a requirement to plant trees.
3. A new strip mall development on the west side that features a recycling depot, local grocery stores, elementary school, restaurants, animal shelter, green house, sports store, pool and commercial spaces. The mall would also protect trees through a “protected area”.

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