

Kitchen Table Conversation Report

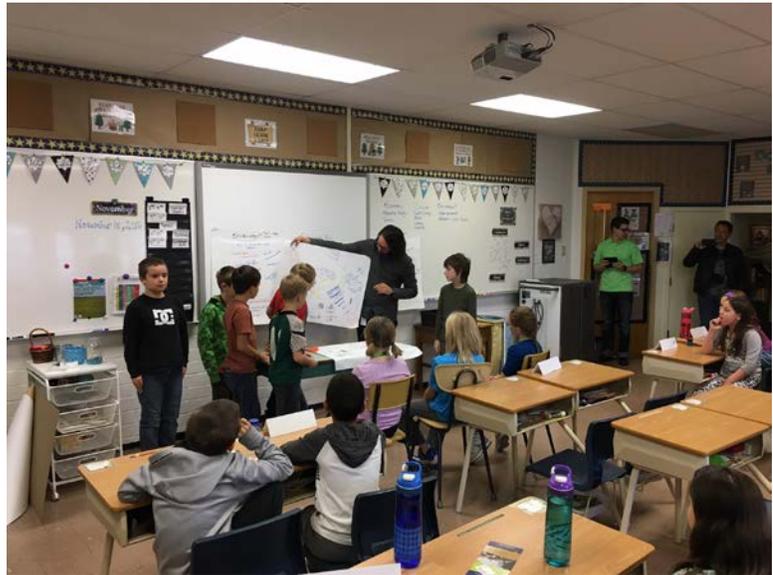
Name of Group/Organization: Ms. Tadey's Grade 4 Class, Lakeview Elementary School

Conversation Topic: Our City's Future

Date: November 18, 2016

Describe your Conversation: During the morning of November 18, 2016, Andrew Malcolm and Perry Stein, Community Planners at the City of Lethbridge led a planning and visioning activity with a class of Grade 4 students at Lakeview Elementary 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:

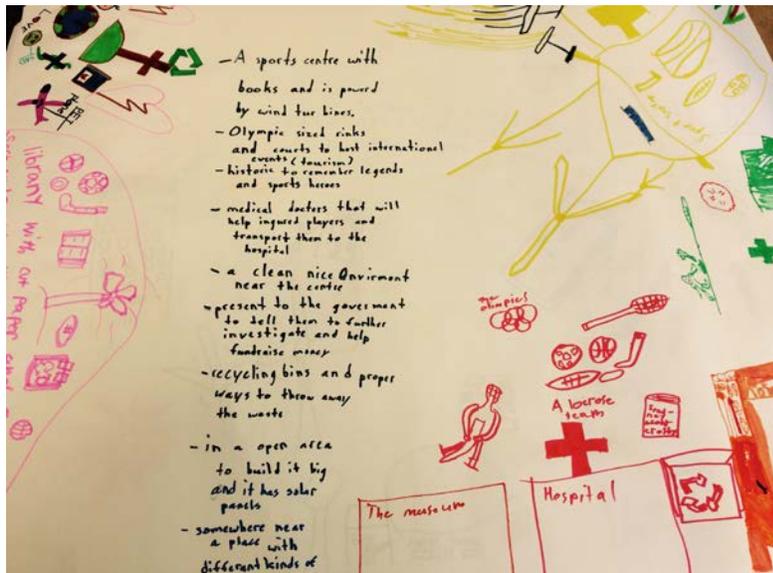
- Zoo (wild and endangered animals are safe)
- Park space with diverse activities (like Frisbee golf)
- Wind: use it for alternative energy
- Meditation park
- Recycling bins
- Cleaner environment
- Japanese Garden should be bigger
- More trees
- Walk and Bike to work
- Calm
- Peaceful
- Use less energy
- Less car use / more multi-modal transportation (carpool, walk, train, buses, cars, bikes, skateboards, scooters)
- Don't enjoy needing to drive everywhere in our cars
- More bus lanes, bike racks, bike lanes, sidewalks and pathways
- More national and natural parks

Economic:

- More tourist locations
- Businesses: vets, bookstores, lego store
- Centres for instruction (e.g., horse riding)
- Bigger mall
- Parking (e.g., at the university)
- Diverse housing: old and new, big and small, single family, duplexes
- More hotels in different locations
- Alternative energy
- Better airport

Social:

- Dog parks / pets
- Schools / education
- Family activities (areas to get together)
- Hospitals
- Water parks
- Observatory: stars are cool
- Library: places to learn and use computers
- Arts studios
- Dance studios
- Arcade
- Open mic
- Performing arts centre
- Hockey areas / sports arenas
- Football fields
- Trampoline parks
- Skate parks
- Open gym space



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 Sports Centre powered by wind turbines, featuring Olympic sized rinks to host international events, a history area to remember local sports legends, a medical centre to help injured athletes, recycling bins
2. A Sports Centre powered by wind and solar energy, that features a hotel, gift shop and food court, indoor and outdoor sports, and is surrounded by trees and grass and worms (worms make everything better!)
3. A Sports Centre with four soccer fields, one football field, a health care center with first aid, wind turbines and solar panels, a hotel, as well as trees, plants and a lake.



All of the projects focused on being inclusive, environmentally responsible (using alternative energy) and financially responsible.

Local media attended the activity:

<http://lethbridgenewsnow.com/article/538344/voices-children-included-city-planning>

Lethbridge Herald article on following page.



Herald photo by Ian Martens

Lakeview Elementary School Grade 4 students Abdu Aborawi, William Tymo, Kenzie Fyfe, Kiera Klemen and Noah Stromsmoe work on their ideas for the city's potential future plans as part of the City of Lethbridge 100K+ Conversations initiative. @IMartensHerald

Students add input to '100K' conversation

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In 20 years, they'll probably have families and careers.

So Grade 4 students at a southside school were asked Friday what they'd hope to see in the Lethbridge of the future.

More sports facilities, parks and hotels were among their recommendations — adding to the thousands of comments already heard formally and informally.

As Lethbridge closes in on a population of 100,000, city officials are seeking residents' comments on their city of their future. Community planner Andrew Malcolm says more school visits are planned in coming weeks.

But residents of all ages are being urged to share their views, he says. They're also being invited to join with their neighbours in "kitchen table conversations," and then to share their thoughts on a section of the city's website: www.lethbridge.ca.

"That's going well," Malcolm says. "People can read what other groups are saying."

Along with classroom teacher Allison Tadey, he heard Lakeview Elementary students share their visions of their city of the future, after working with their ideas in small groups.

Solar panels, wind power and more energy-efficient systems were high on the list. So were soccer and football fields. And many of the southside students predicted the city's western communities would continue to be the focus of growth.

"We were looking 20 years ahead," said Taha Shabib, the spokesperson for one of the groups of "city planners."

"My job was to bring their ideas together."

Their goal, he added, was to facilitate the economy while safeguarding the environment.

"They have a lot of good thoughts," their teacher said.

"They don't often have an opportunity to share them in the community."

By Grade 4, said Tadey, "We've studied a little about the environment."

While there's no official prediction about when Lethbridge will click over into a six-digit population, Malcolm said the community "100K" conversations will continue until 2018.