

Annual General Meeting 2015-2016  
Report of the Education Policies Committee

**VAR:** There were many discussions throughout the year about the transparency of VAR. PTU has created a VAR committee which will meet in June to discuss VAR and draw up a list of recommendations. These recommendations will be presented to the School Board in the fall of 2016.

**International Program:** There were on-going discussion about ensuring that teachers and international students have the resources required. This is still an issue and will be on the agenda again in the fall.

**Arts and Music:** PTU brought up the importance of arts and music in our schools. There was a concern that not all elementary schools are opting to offer music and instead are offering other art classes without art specialists.

**Evaluation:** All schools have or are writing their Standards and Procedures Reports. It is important for teachers to be involved in this process. The School Board does not insist on mid-year exams at the secondary level.

Elementary exams were discussed, in particular the grade 3 math exam. This will also remain on the table for the fall.

**Professional Development:** Formative assessment workshops, “Edcamps” for some of the elementary teachers, weekend “Future Ready Summit” at Lakeside Academy, to name a few. The new History curriculum training and the Summer Institute are still to come.

**Innovations, Programs and Technology:** Our schools are flooded with programs to attract parents and students. We were presented with some of these programs and other “innovations” this year:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) in place at St-Charles Elementary for two years and being introduced to Lindsay Place High School next year.
- MATRIX (Laptop program) at Westwood Junior since 2011 and followed through at Westwood Senior.
- The Future Ready School philosophy will be piloted at Christmas Park next year.
- Trends in social media was presented in hopes to get schools on social media platforms.
- Library Learning Commons is also a huge trend and many of our libraries have been renovating their spaces.
- Read & Write for Google, a reading and writing tool, has been purchased by the School Board and is now available for all students and teachers on Google.

Submitted by Heidi Yetman