

PTA asks for B-W grading change

By AL LOWE
For The Corridor

Baldwin-Whitehall PTA representatives want their schools using the same grading system for students that is used by other South Hills area schools.

Nancy Crowder and Cindy Depretis spoke on behalf of the PTAs and made the request at the June 13 agenda meeting of the B-W school board.

"We are the only district in the South Hills where 93 to 100 percent is an A, 83 to 92 percent is a B, 70 to 82 percent is a C and 60 to 69 percent is a D. Under this current system if you miss one question in a 10-question test, you get a B," Crowder said.

Depretis said she was concerned about how the current system affects the average child.

The pair said they preferred the system used at such districts as Brentwood, Mt. Lebanon, Upper St. Clair, Bethel Park and Peters Twp. where 60 to 69 is a D, 70 to 79 is a C, 80 to 89 is a B and 90 to 100 is an A.

Each local unit PTA is a

member of PTA Council, and has voted in favor of changing the grading system.

Depretis said representatives met with superintendent Donna Milanovich in October but grew concerned when they realized the High School Reform Committee is not considering the issue.

She said members hoped the board would take action on the matter.

In other business, the board promoted Randal Lutz, who ran the elementary education department, and John Wilkinson, who was in charge of secondary education.

Lutz now is assistant superintendent of elementary education and Wilkinson is assistant superintendent of secondary education. They each now earn \$110,000 a year.

Board president Kevin Fischer said their titles changed because they are handling more responsibilities, including some of the duties formerly performed by assistant superintendent Lucille Abellonio, who left the district to accept a similar position at Clairton.

The district hired Wilkinson, former principal at Northgate middle/high school, in October, 2005.

Lutz has been a district administrator for years and was once principal at Harrison Middle School.

Rebecca Wolf, president of the Baldwin-Whitehall Education Association, responded to comments made at a recent board meeting. District officials at that time criticized the teachers because 78 teachers, a fourth of the work force, called off sick on a Friday in May.

Wolf said some of the teachers were attending conferences that Friday and the district already knew about this.

She also said some of the teachers were genuinely ill.