

# Committee making recommendations on B-W grading scale

By AL LOWE  
For The Corridor

The grading system at Baldwin-Whitehall schools get an overhaul based on recommendations by a grading committee that has been meeting for discussions this summer.

B-W's PTA already has asked the school board to implement a 10-point grading system similar to that used in many Allegheny County schools, but that is only one of the recommendations being finalized by the committee that will make a presentation to the board.

School Director Martin Schmotzer said one of the committee's three subcommittees may recommend that the district start using a grading system where 90 to 100 is an A, 80 to 89 is a B, 70 to 79 is a C and 60 to 69 is a D.

Under the current system 93 to 100 is an A, 83 to 92 is a B, 70 to 82 is a C and 60 to 69 is a D.

The committee is composed of administrators, board members, PTA members and teachers, including such well-known district personalities as Schmotzer, Director Nancy Scialli DiNardo, Superintendent Lawrence Korchnak, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Randy Lutz, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education John Wilkinson,

Paynter Elementary Principal Darlene DeFilippo and PTA members Nancy Crowder and Cindy Depretis.

A numerical value for the letter grade, such as 95 or 88 or 72, will be used for calculating QPAs instead of using 1-4 points for a letter grade.

Schmotzer, who is a member of the committee's grading subcommittee, said changing to a 10-point system "will create a level playing field," since many other local schools currently use it.

A second subcommittee, a reporting subcommittee, is considering changing the grading system for K-5 students. Instead of grades, the students would have ratings such as Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement.

"It is not important that a second-grader get an A, an A for the sake of an A. It is important that the second-grader understand a math equation or language arts," Schmotzer said.

The third subcommittee, the rigor subcommittee, is devising a uniform syllabi for courses in district schools.

Teachers would rely more on objective standards to assign grades.

"We hope to implement the changes in stages," Schmotzer said.