

## February 2010 Board Watch Report Card

The Pittsburgh Public School Board earned another B- for their governance for the months of November, December and January.

Some Things to Note:

- Scores for Focus and Mission dropped to a C, the lowest score for any category to date.
- The second highest drop was in Conduct.
- The highest score remains in Transparency.

Our Recommendation:

- Again, we recommend that the School Board create time in the agenda to clarify and resolve recurring policies and issues.
- To track all of our recommendations to date and see the Board's response, see the bottom of the page.

Minimum Score	Grade
05.0	A+
-->4.67	A
--> 4.33	A-
--> 4.00	B+
-->3.67	B
--> 3.33	B-
--> 3.00	C+
--> 2.67	C
--> 2.33	C-
--> 2.00	D+
--> 1.67	D
--> 1.33	D-
--> 1.0	F

### What is the Grading Scale?

Scores are calculated on a scale with a 1.0 being the lowest possible score (an F) and a 5.0 being the highest. (an A+). The grading scale listed to the left shows the minimum score required to earn each letter grade. So, for example, the lowest score the Board could earn and still get a B- would be a 3.33.

	March 2009	June 2009	Nov 2009	Feb 2010
Focus and Mission	C+	C+	B-	C
Transparency	B-	B+	B+	B+
Conduct	B-	C+	B	B-
Role Clarity	C+	C	C+	C+
Competency	C+	C+	B-	B-
Overall	C+	B-	B-	B-

**A+ Schools**  
Pittsburgh Community Alliance for Public Education  
For more information visit [www.aplusschools.org](http://www.aplusschools.org).

All grades were calculated from the responses of informed citizens serving as independent observers and evaluators of school board governance.

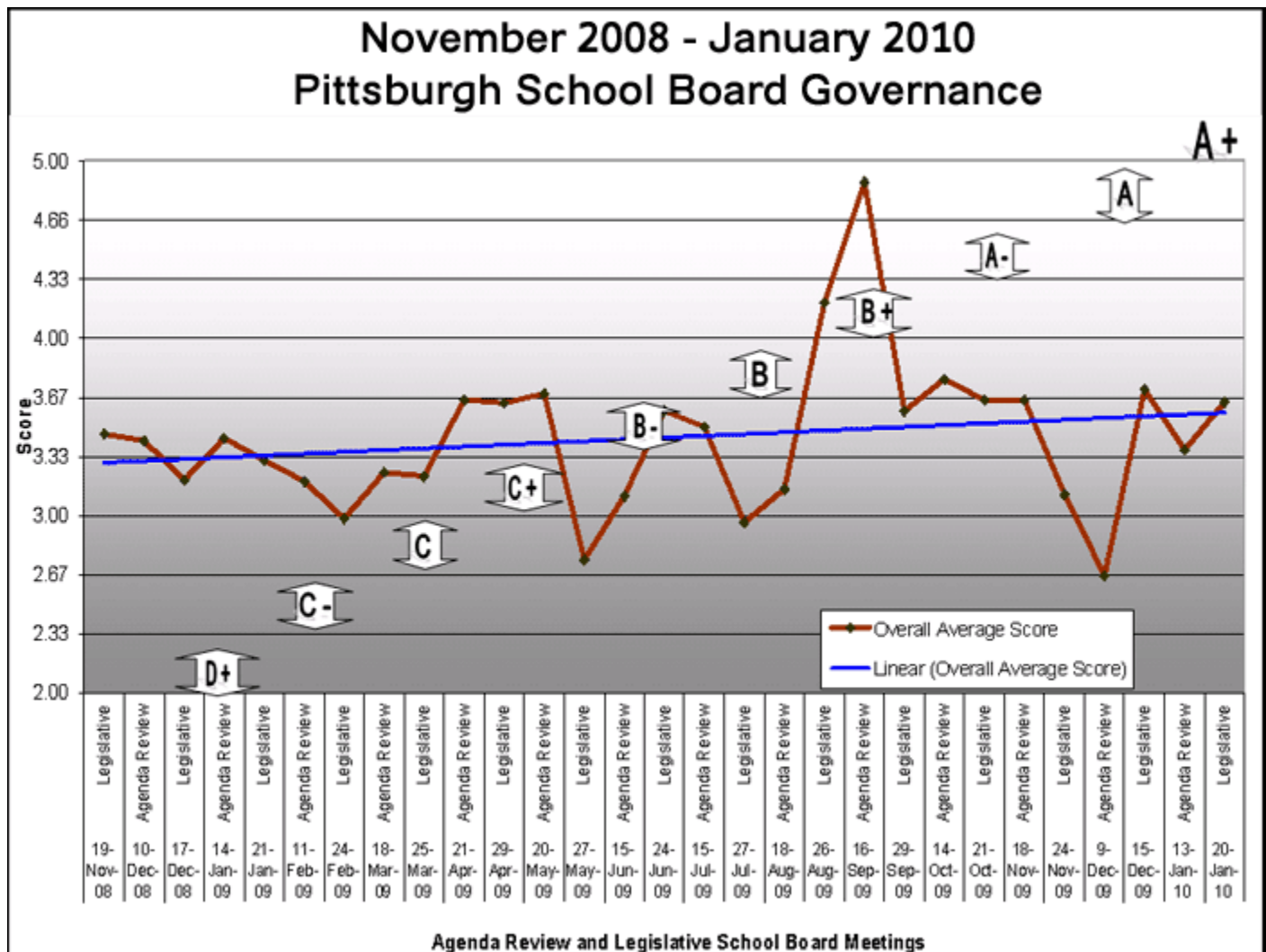
Here is a breakdown of the scores for each report card:

	March 09	June 09	November 09	February 10

Focus & Mission	3.28 C+	3.24 C+	3.59 B-	2.95 C
Transparency	3.51 B-	4.02 B+	4.29 B+	4.14 B+
Conduct	3.43 B-	3.25 C+	3.74 B	3.39 B-
Role Clarity	3.10 C+	2.98 C	3.10 C+	3.00 C+
Competency	3.28 C+	3.27 C+	3.39 B-	3.34 B-
Overall	3.32 C+	3.35 B-	3.62 B-	3.36 B-





























Is the Board's Governance Improving Overall?

Below is a graph of the overall scores the Board earned for every meeting since the start of Board Watch. The horizontal lines represent each grade on the grading scale. The brown line represents their overall score for each meeting and the blue line is a trend line that shows us whether or not there's overall improvement. As you can see, the trend line shows us that the overall trend seems to be moving up, even though it has only moved within the B- range.



## What Changes Has the Board Made as a Result of Board Watch?

With each report card, A+ Schools has made recommendations for ways that the School Board could better function. Some have been responded to, some have not. Below is a list of all of the recommendations that A+ has made to date with an indicator to show when the recommendation was made and how the Board has responded, if at all.

KEY:		 Implemented	 Implemented somewhat or inconsistently	 Not implemented
Report Card		Recommendations Made by A+		Board's Response
		Create a deliberate process and time for tracking and addressing new and existing policy issues.		
		Reverse the order of the public hearing and the agenda review meeting to allow the public more opportunity to speak to relevant and timely issues being considered by the Board.		
			Designate a specific time in the meeting structure to have more proactive discussions about strategy and planning and follow up on suggestions for policy reviews that arise from board members.	
			As a Board, raise the level of conversation to be about planning for how to achieve your goals rather than primarily reacting to specific expenditures, programs and other routine administrative details.	
			Support a proposed change to the PA School Code that clarifies the leadership and policy making role of the PPS Board	
			Move all agenda review and legislative meetings into the larger board room enabling more of the public to observe deliberations first hand.	
			Install permanent signage from the main entrance to the board room	
			Station a security guard or greeter at the main entrance of the building	
			Use public hearings as a way to exchange information with the public	
			Consider ways for the public to see in advance the of public hearings all items that will be voted on	
			Make entire agenda packet available online in advance of board meetings	