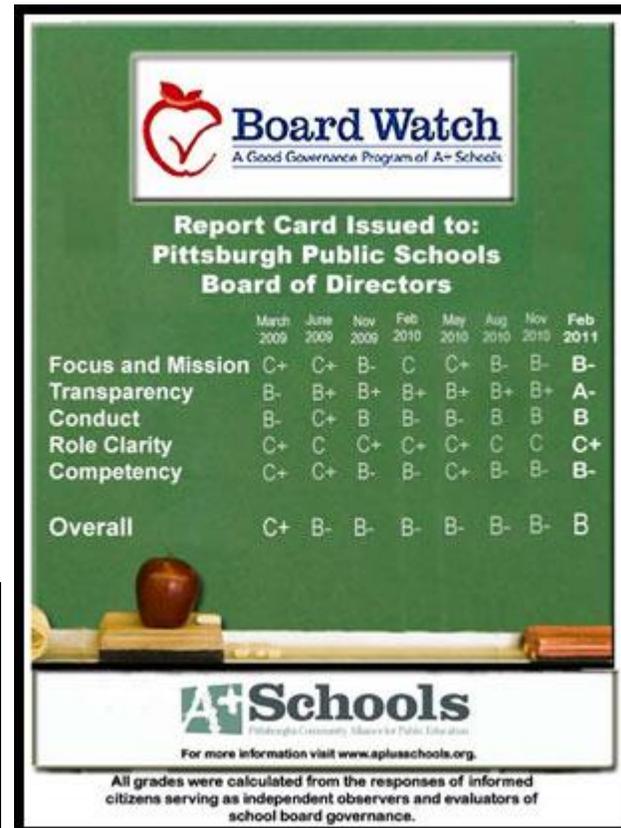
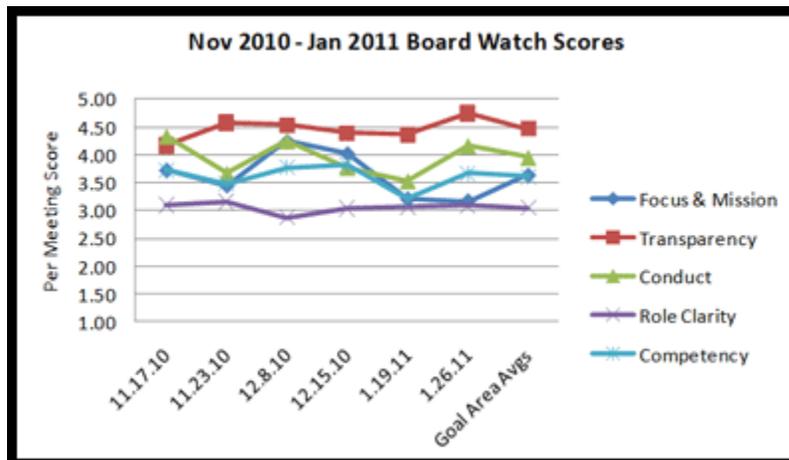


## February 2011 Board Watch Report Card

A+ Schools Issues Latest Board Watch "Report Card" *Best Report Card in Two Years Nets a "B" for City School Board*

Highlights:

- This is the best report card in two years of Board Watch Reporting with the Board receiving an overall B.
- The highest grade in this report card and since the beginning of Board Watch is the A- for transparency.
- Role clarity is still the area where the Board has the lowest scores, but even that grade improved since that last report card
- Grades improved in all areas except competency.



### Recommendations: FOCUS ON POLICY

The area of greatest challenge for the School Board has been in the area of ROLE CLARITY. Fulfilling their role as a Reform School Board means they are focusing time and energy on reviewing, modifying and setting policies that are focused on achieving the district's goals. School Board leadership requires planning for change and monitoring factors that would indicate success, not just reacting to proposed changes.

With each report card, A+ Schools has made recommendations for ways that the School Board could better function. Larger improvements in scores will require deeper, more structural changes to be made. Much work is still left to be done in the area of creating a deliberate time and process for policymaking.

Some ways that the board can do that are:

1. Conduct a board training session to create the opportunity to learn about new ways of governing as policy makers.
2. Implement the widely used best practice of the consent agenda as a way to minimize time and attention on administrative tasks and create more time and attention for setting and monitoring policies that create a high performing school system where all students achieve at high levels.
3. On each board tab, list the district policy number that corresponds to the item for quick reference by Board members and the public- for example, a board tab related to guidance counseling would be related to policy #107.
4. Assign a section of the Board meeting's agenda to discussing new policy matters from the list of items that arose in Board meeting conversations.

**A+ Schools asks the Pittsburgh Public School Board to fulfill their role as policy-makers by creating a deliberate time and process for the act of policy-making. We also ask the public to join us in our request.**