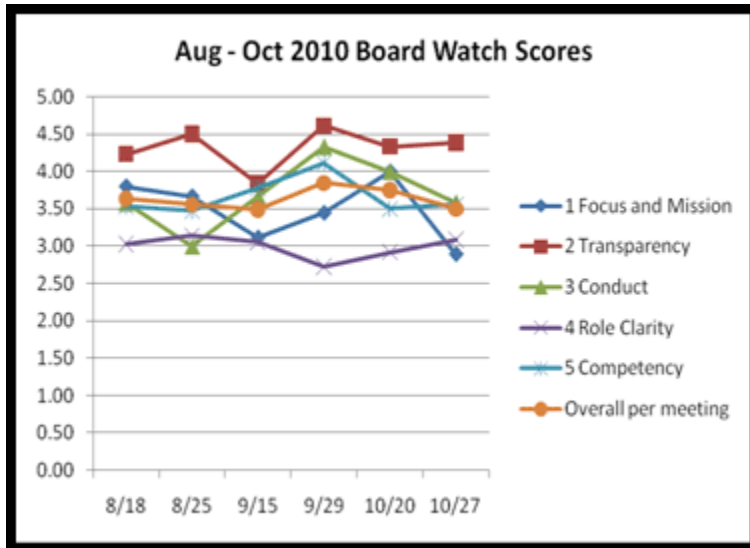



## November 2010 Board Watch Report Card

The Pittsburgh Public School Board earned another B- for their governance for the months of August, September, and October.

Some Things to Note in this Report Card:

- Role clarity is still the area where the Board has the lowest scores
- Grades improved in all areas but all letter grades remain the same as in the August Report Card
- In each meeting, Transparency grades were the highest.







### Board Watch

A Good Governance Program of A+ Schools

Report Card Issued to:  
Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Board of Directors

	March 2009	June 2009	Nov 2009	Feb 2010	May 2010	Aug 2010	Nov 2010
Focus and Mission	C+	C+	B-	C	C+	B-	B-
Transparency	B-	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
Conduct	B-	C+	B	B-	B-	B	B
Role Clarity	C+	C	C+	C+	C+	C	C
Competency	C+	C+	B-	B-	C+	B-	B-
<b>Overall</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>





Pittsburgh University Alliance for Public Education

For more information visit [www.apluseschools.org](http://www.apluseschools.org)

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

Minimum Score	Grade
5.0	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+

### 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.

--> 1.67	<b>D</b>
--> 1.33	<b>D-</b>
--> 1.0	<b>F</b>

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

	Mar 09	June 09	Nov 09	Feb 10	May 10	Aug 10	Nov 10
Focus & Mission	3.28 C+	3.24 C+	3.59 B-	2.95 C	3.29 C+	3.33 B-	3.49 B-
Transparency	3.51 B-	4.02 B+	4.29 B+	4.14 B+	4.05 B+	4.20 B+	4.32 B+
Conduct	3.43 B-	3.25 C+	3.74 B	3.39 B-	3.49 B-	3.67 B	3.69 B
Role Clarity	3.10 C+	2.98 C	3.10 C+	3.00 C+	3.05 C+	2.83 C	2.99 C
Competency	3.28 C+	3.27 C+	3.39 B-	3.34 B-	3.31 C+	3.59 B-	3.66 B-
Overall	3.32 C+	3.35 B-	3.62 B-	3.36 B-	3.44 B-	3.53 B-	3.63 B-

The Moral of the Story: 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 is:

1. 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.
2. Assign someone to maintain the list of policy issues that need to be revisited at a later date as they arise in discussion.
3. 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 better 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.**