

**SHOALS COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
11741 IRONTON ROAD  
SHOALS, INDIANA 47581**

**November 9, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Board Minutes**

The Shoals School Board meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. on November 9, 2023. Members in attendance were: President-Drexel Turpin, Vice President-Eva George, and Members Jenell Hoffman and Annette Taylor. Secretary Jerry Braun was absent. Staff in attendance were Superintendent Kindra Hovis, Principals Josh Mullis, and Audrey Gibson, and Corporation Secretary, Darla Holt. There were no patrons in attendance.

The minutes of the October 23, 2023 meeting were approved with a 4-0 vote. Annette Taylor made the motion, seconded by Jenell Hoffman.

Building principal reports began with Mrs. Audrey Gibson giving an update for the elementary building. Elementary students have started winter athletics. Angel Tree Angels will be out in the community very soon. The Elementary Robotics had their first competition of the year this past weekend. The Roxbots 4882 Robotics team is working on a project that is connected to our School Nature Trail. Students researched and worked with community partners to create plaques that have the Indiana state bird, flower, and other state facts. These signs are displayed along the walking trail. Elementary students participated in the annual Veteran's day program, with 2nd grade students leading the Pledge of Allegiance, the 5th grade students along with Ms. Kim Hickman sang a patriotic melody, and 5th grade students, Coalsyn Hembree and Gunner Gibson, read a poem aloud.

Fifty- two fourth and fifth graders attended Indiana State Beta Convention on November 9th in Evansville, Indiana. Students competed or presented individual and group projects. Students were able compete in various categories such as painting, free draw, mathematics, sculpture, marketing, and photography. Elementary Beta sponsor Mrs. Rebecca Rollins does a fantastic job at preparing our students for this event.

Several Elementary Special Education teachers and aides will be attending training the week of November 13 in Jeffersonville. The focus will be on Inclusive Practices to support all learners.

Lastly, Mrs. Gibson acknowledged the entire Elementary team. We have an amazing group of educators who are doing wonderful things within their classrooms. However, this would not be possible without the support of our classroom aides. These individuals pour into our students and oftentimes work one on one or in small groups providing support to students who are struggling. Their commitment to our school and the service to our students does not go unnoticed.

Mrs. Gibson finished with the upcoming events: Shoals Christmas Parade Staff Float on December 2nd, Annual Music Program on December 8th, Gingerbread and Grandparents on December 15th, and 12 Days of Holiday Fun will be December 5-20.

Middle School Principal, Mr. Bryson Abel's report was presented by the High School Principal, Josh Mullis. Mr. Mullis opened the report regarding Middle school students enjoyed participating in an interactive career exploration event at Evansville on October 25th. This event had over 100 industry partners who provided interactive opportunities for students to explore and spark a career interest.

Red Ribbon week was a success as many activities took place. Thank you to Mimi Hawkins for coordinating all of these activities. Forty-three students were at Indiana State Beta Convention in Evansville, Thank you to Beta sponsor, Reva Troutman, for her commitment to our students and their Beta projects. Middle School students participated at North Knox for the Spell Bowl. Thank you to Cassie Phillips for overseeing this endeavor. A huge Thank you to the Martin County Community Foundation for awarding classroom grants to several teachers in the Middle School building. The MCCF has always been generous and supportive of our school. Mr. Mullis finished the report stating that the Winter sports are in full swing and basketball games have begun.

High School Principal, Mr. Josh Mullis began by reporting on various meetings with staff and students. The first meeting was with a representative from Grand Canyon University based out of Arizona, who was able to talk to our students about their online program. Also, Ms. Hovis, Ms. Hannah, Mrs. Gibson, and Mr. Mullis attended a COSMOS meeting in Orleans. It is always nice to see our COSMOS counterparts and catch-up with what is going on in our different schools. The top two students who sold the most trash bags were rewarded with checks. They were Junior, Gage Gilbert, who was first overall, and 8th grader Braxton Mullis, who was second overall.

The Athletic Department held their annual Fall Festival and it was a great time had by all. Members of last year's Mayor Youth Council presented a check to the Martin County Ambulance Service.

Miss Hawkins, Mrs. Rue, Ms. Hannah, and Mr. Mullis went to our new RECN Quad Meeting in Perry Central. This year RECN reorganized the quads so that schools similar in size met together. It was a fantastic and productive meeting. It was amazing to see and hear all of the things going on across the different districts. The Martin County Community Foundation recently delivered checks to our teachers who were rewarded with a grant to fund classroom activities. Recently, SPA hosted their annual Craft Show. They had several vendors and a lot of folks came out to look at the different items available for purchase.

Our annual Veterans Day Program was held November 9. Dennis Cecil was our guest speaker. There was a great turn out and we are thankful each year that we are able to put this program together for our veterans.

Mr. Mullis had a mid-year check in with Edmentum. We were able to talk about some of the developments that have been seen this year and what to expect in the future.

Recently, Mr. Stephenson and 10 of his Computer Science students completed an Hour of Code.

Mr. Mullis acknowledged the Boys Varsity Basketball coach, Michael Hopkins. He has been working with the feeder program this fall. He had our 4th Grade team playing in the league at Barr-Reeve and they made some strides in the 4 weeks in which they played. Coach Hopkins himself was there to keep the scorebook and cheer on the players. Mr. Mullis ended expressing his appreciation of his dedication and support for the younger grades.

Under old business, the Middle School Improvement Plan was approved with a 4-0 vote. A motion to approve was made by Eva George, seconded by Annette Taylor.

Under new business, the school health insurance premium renewal was approved, 4-0. The School Trust will switch from UnitedHealthCare to Anthem, due to better rates, January 1, 2024. Jenell Hoffman and Annette led the motions. Also, the First Reading of the School Library Material Removal Request Procedure Policy was made.

Approval of RoboKind/DOE grant was approved, with Eva George making the motion, and Jenell Hoffman with the second motion, with a 4-0 vote.

Personnel hires were as follows: Misty McKibben, Kellie Shaw, and Becky Riggins were all approved as substitute teachers for the 2023-24 school year. Eva George led the motion with Jenell Hoffman, making the second. Motion passed 4-0. Other personnel actions approved were for Mallory Waggoner to be added as a High school FTC teams sponsor, working with Lorna and Dean Troutman, Danela McCarty as volunteer Middle School Cheer coach, Laura Barber as a substitute bus driver, and Ben Kent and Megan Hawkins moved to 12-month contracts. Annette Taylor led the motion, with Eva George making the second with a 4-0 vote. Athletic department recommendations for approval were for Edmund Neeley as volunteer Elementary Girls' coach, Brittney Fuhrman as volunteer Dance and Cheer coach, Raysha Wininger as Dance and HS Cheer coach, and Rylan Perry as volunteer Assistant to the Middle School Boys' Basketball. Motion was approved 3-0-1, with Eva George abstaining. Annette Taylor led the motion with Jenell Hoffman making the second.

Also approved were for all active non-certified staff who are in attendance to receive a \$1/per hour pay increase effective in the December payroll, and all active non certified staff who are in attendance to receive a Christmas stipend. Allison Taylor was approved to receive a stipend during Danielle Cornett's leave of absence. Jenell Hoffman led the motion with Annette Taylor seconding it. The motion passed 4-0.

The following field trips were approved with Annette Taylor making a motion, seconded by Eva George, and all passed with a 4-0 vote: High School Spell Bowl to North Knox on October 30 for an Academic Spell Bowl Meet, Middle School Spell Bowl to Jasper Middle School on November 1, for an Academic Spell Bowl meet, Senior Academic Team to Barr Reeve on March 6, 2024 for the Senior Academic Super Bowl and Senior Academic Team to Southridge High School on April 16, 2024 for Senior Academic Super Bowl.

Additional Field trips approved were the 4th and 5th grades Spell Bowl team to Throop Elementary on November 13, 2023 for a Spell Bowl Competition. Jenell Hoffman and Annette Taylor made the motions which passed 4-0.

The following fundraisers were approved, Girls' Basketball team asking for sponsorship donations October 26-November 10. Funds will be used for uniforms and other needed equipment/apparel, Beta Clubs to sponsor a Christmas Light Show/Food Drive December 8th and 9th, High School Cheer to host their annual Cheer Clinic on January 12, 2024. Motion passed 4-0 with Eva George and Annette Taylor making the motions. The last fundraiser to be approved was for the Junior class to do "Chuck A -Duck" at basketball games. Annette Taylor and Jenell Hoffman led the motions which passed 4-0.

Superintendent Hovis began her report by stating how blessed the school has been in the last several weeks in receiving grants from several different organizations. The Martin County Community Foundation awarded ten teachers throughout the corporation with classroom grants, Shoals was a recipient of the Indiana Department of Education Robotics grant, thanks to Lorna Troutman, Mrs. Traci LeTourneau received a grant to pay for the renewal of our autism robot, MILO, Megan Hawkins was the recipient of a \$30,000 giving Tuesday grant from National Gypsum, and Ms. Hovis was notified on Thursday that the school will be receiving approximately \$130,000 from the competitive science of reading grant through the Indiana Department of Education. These grants provide numerous opportunities for our students and staff. Ms. Hovis wished all of the students participating in BETA the next few days the best of luck at the competition and thanked the sponsors of this club as they spent countless hours of their own time ensuring students had everything that was needed to complete their projects. The community enjoyed a Veteran's Day program this past Wednesday. Ms. Hovis thanked the community sponsors as well as Mrs. Knepp for preparing the meal for the Veterans and Mr. Kent for donating all of the hamburger meat from Jug Rox Farm for the meal. Also, a huge thank you to Mr. Mullis and Mrs. Breidenbaugh for putting together such a nice program. The school is excited to be serving an actual Thanksgiving feast next Friday, November 17th in the cafeteria thanks to an anonymous donor. Students will be served turkey and all of the sides. Thank you to the cafeteria staff for making this possible. The students really enjoyed the recent Halloween meal that was served. Next week, Superintendent Hovis will be traveling to Chattanooga, TN, along with the other COSMOS Superintendents to present on Reimagining Rural Education. COSMOS was invited to present at the National Forum to Advance Rural Education conference. Ms. Hovis gave a huge thank you to Darla Holt for all the time she spent preparing the new teacher contracts and ensuring teachers received their new contract amount and backpay on this next payroll. It took a lot of time to input and make these changes in the new payroll system. Treasurer Kendra Wright gave a written report that maintenance bills have decreased quite a bit over the last several months as a lot of maintenance work has been kept in-house versus being contracted out. Ms. Hovis closed by wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving!

Financial and other reports were approved with a motion made by Annette Taylor and seconded by Eva George, and passing 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

***The next Regular Board Meeting will be Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6 P.M.***