

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

October 23 2023

6:00 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. on October 23, 2023. Members in attendance were: President-Drexel Turpin, Vice President-Eva George, Secretary-Jerry Braun and Members Jenell Hoffman and Annette Taylor. Staff in attendance were Superintendent Kindra Hovis, Principals Josh Mullis, Bryson Abel, and Audrey Gibson, Tammy Cooper-Cafeteria Manager, and Corporation Secretary, Darla Holt. Patrons in attendance were Lorna Troutman, Etta Franklin, and Apryl Kidd from COSMOS.

The minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting were approved with a 5-0 vote. Jerry Braun made the motion, seconded by Eva George.

COSMOS Director, Apryl Kidd, gave an update on the Collaboration of Shoals, Mitchell, and Orleans Schools. She began by stating the COSMOS mission statement and giving a timeline of how COSMOS came about. She continued with providing an overview of funding and its sponsors. She then described the growth of COSMOS since beginning the shared course program in 2019-2020. Between the three schools, a total of 16 courses are shared, bringing more opportunities to our students. For instance, this past spring we had our first certification graduates through the Ivy Tech CNA program. This fall we launched our own student employees through the UpSkill Work & Learn program. Shoals employs Gage Gilbert in The Rock lab. COSMOS continues to receive national recognition and was selected to be one of three special programs in the state of Indiana to be part of an upcoming documentary. COSMOS was also the only program selected in the state of Indiana as a Career Z Challenge Semi-Finalist. Next month, Superintendents from Mitchell, Orleans, and Shoals will be traveling to Chattanooga, Tennessee to present about the COSMOS program.

Lorna Troutman gave an update regarding the Indiana Department of Education Robotics Grant that she spoke about at last month's meeting. The grant application had several components to it and it is still under review from the DOE. The RoxStars have been busy the last several weeks working on ways to create and communicate art across the globe, as this is the FLL theme for this year. They have hosted a pop up art gallery at the Shoals Library and provided a cupcake and canvas as well. This Thursday, they will be doing the same activities at the Loogootee Library. They have enjoyed listening to guest speakers who happen to be retired art teachers, Mr. Bill Whorrall and Mrs. Linda Sherfick. The robotics team will be competing on November 11th and 18th this fall.

Cafeteria Director & Manager, Tammy Cooper, gave an update on the school cafeteria. This has been our biggest year yet for serving breakfasts and lunches. Over 400 students ate the school lunch on the day that orange chicken and rice was served. The school farm to table has also been a huge success this fall. The school farm has provided the following items to the school cafeteria: 255 pounds of potatoes, 100 pounds of tomatoes, 5 gallons of apples, several watermelon, cantaloupes, and pork and beef as students have enjoyed sausage patties and hamburger patties. Ms. Cooper gave a huge thank you to Mrs. Knepp's culinary classes for assisting in the peeling of the potatoes so that students could eat homemade mashed potatoes several days and for making the creative rice krispie pumpkin treats that were served at the fall field day event.

Building principal reports began with Mrs. Audrey Gibson giving an update for the elementary building. Mrs. Gibson began by thanking the Shoals Shop Class and Shoals Ag department for a successful elementary fall field day. She appreciates the time and effort that goes into planning such a fun, educational event for our students. Martin County Farm Fair Day was a huge success as well and she thanked all the area businesses and organizations for their support and involvement in this year's event, which was hosted at Shoals School. Fourth grades students from both Shoals and Loogootee participated in Farm Fair day. Several students in grades 1-5 are participating in Rox Academy, which is a new, free after school tutoring program that was recently implemented. A big thank you goes out to all the teachers, families, and students for helping get this program started. On October 9th, Mrs. Gibson, Ms. Hovis, Mrs. Greene, and Ms. Bushey traveled to Throop Elementary in Paoli and visited different special education classrooms. The team gathered ideas on what a whole-child classroom looks like. Shoals Elementary is gearing up to open a whole-child classroom, which will focus on creating a learning environment for children who have suffered trauma. Ms. Gibson thanked Throop Elementary for their hospitality and collaboration. Mrs. Rollins, our online coordinator, recently attended a training on October 10th in Mitchell. Mrs. Rollins provides support to students and families who are enrolled in our corporation's online educational platform. Parent/Teacher conferences were held during the week of October 9-13, followed by a week of fall break. Thank you to Ms. Myrna Greene for providing Bullying Awareness lessons to all elementary students throughout the month of October. This week, students are enjoying learning about red ribbon week. A big thank you to Mimi Hawkins for organizing all of the activities for this week. The theme for this year is "Be Kind To Your Mind. Live Drug Free." Many students are gearing up and working on projects for the upcoming BETA convention, which will be next month. This Friday several classes are celebrating with fall parties. Mrs. Gibson closed by thanking the Shoals Methodist Church for their monetary donation for student hygiene products and the Jasper American Legion Ladies Auxiliary for their donation of student headphones and arts and craft items.

Middle School Principal, Mr. Bryson Abel, began by stating how discipline numbers have dropped drastically compared to this time last year and attendance is getting closer to where it should be. Thank you to PBIS coordinator, Kelley Wellman-Covey for running the monthly data for each building. On September 30th, the MS Boys soccer team won the Group C bracket of the Southern Indiana Junior High Soccer Championship game, which was held in Evansville. Congratulations to the MS soccer team and coach! On October 3rd, Connie Wilson, a cardiac nurse, came in to discuss heart health with MS health classes. Students learned the importance of preventative care for kids with good nutrition and exercise. On Tuesday, October 10th, Raysha Wininger, attended an Edmentum meeting at Mitchell to learn more about the platform and how to utilize it and its data within the classroom. Vision screenings were conducted by Dr. Michael Alvarez on October 12th. Also, on October 12th, Mrs. Heidi Hoffman has a Night Light tour in her classroom. All Rox Solid

classes were invited to tour the lights that students created using a 3D printer. Students and staff were then allowed to vote for their favorite design. Congratulations to the following winners: First place, Chloe Divine with “The Mushroom House,” Second place, Micael Franks with “The Gazing Box,” and Third place, Ethan Albright with “The Batman Signal.” Mr. Abel thanked the IT department, Chase Butler and Samuel Dahlen, for their hard work daily and for recently switching our our internal Smoothwall servers. He also thanked Mrs. Jessica Hert for all of her hard work, time, and dedication to our school and community. He finished by congratulating Mrs. Danielle Cornett and husband, Dillon, with the birth of their daughter Reagan Elizabeth, who was born on October 23rd. He hopes to see everyone at the annual fall festival this Saturday evening from 5:00-8:00 pm.

High School Principal, Mr. Josh Mullis began by stating that school picture day was held on October 2nd. On October 6th, several high school students assisted in the elementary fall field day, which was put on by the shop and agriculture departments. Mrs. Knepp’s culinary classes also assisted in this event. Several area schools have brought their students over to enjoy a fall field day experience as well. On October 5th and 6th, Mr. Mullis attended a RECN study trip to North Carolina, where he got to experience how an early college high school is ran in the state of North Carolina. Sophomores and Juniors have been busy taking the PSATS, which began on October 11th. On October 12th, students enjoyed hamburgers in the school cafeteria, which came from our school farm. Mr. Mullis attended a school safety specialist conference on October 12th and 13th in Indianapolis, where he was informed with new ideas on how to keep our schools safe. Prior to fall break, Sara Ann Weeks, also known as “Nana”, came and demonstrated to our agriculture students on how to make homemade applesauce and apple butter. Mrs. Cammie Sanders recently organized a pep rally for our fall sports teams as they headed into sectional play. Mrs. Sanders also organized various dress-up days in which students and staff enjoyed participating in. He closed by thanking Mr. Michael Fitzgerald for donating a large diesel generator to the Shoals Shop Class, which was recently delivered.

Under old business, the 2024 budget and resolutions were read and adopted. A motion to adopt the budget was made by Jerry Braun, seconded by Jenell Hoffman, passing unanimously. The crisis management plan was also voted on with Annette Taylor making a motion, seconded by Eva George, and passing with a 5-0 vote.

Under new business, the Shoals Teachers Association Master Contract was ratified and voted upon for the 2023-2025 school years. Jerry Braun made a motion, seconded by Eva George, and it passed with a 5-0 vote.

Personnel hires were as follows: Renee Childress as the special education elementary teacher for the new whole-child classroom, Olivia Knight as the elementary special education classroom aide, Molley Parsley as the preschool special education aide, and Nikki Butler as the high school special education teacher’s aide. Jenell Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Annette Taylor, and all passed with a 5-0 vote.

Resignations were: Sarah Sexton from preschool classroom aide. Annette Taylor made a motion, seconded by Jerry Braun, and passed 5-0.

Internal transfers were: Emelia Yanez to preschool classroom aide and Kelsey Hert to primary resource classroom aide. Eva George made a motion, seconded by Jenell Hoffman, and passed 5-0.

A stipend of \$10 a day was recommended by Superintendent Hovis for Paul George for transporting a student that is outside of his contracted bus route. Annette Taylor made a motion, seconded by Jenell Hoffman, and it passed 4-0, with Eva George abstaining.

The following field trips were approved by Eva George making a motion, seconded by Annette Taylor, and all passed with a 5-0 vote:

High School Band to North Knox on November 7th for Festival of Bands

Elementary Beta to Old National Events Plaza Center on November 9th for Beta State Convention

High School Robotics to Center Grove Middle School on December 16th for a robotics competition

The following fundraisers were approved by Jerry Braun making a motion, seconded by Eva George, and passing unanimously:

High School Pep Club to sell Chicago's "Take and Bake Pizzas" November 6-17th

High School Boys Basketball to sell Texas Roadhouse items October 14-November 4th

Approval to accept a \$1500 anonymous donation for students to have a Thanksgiving dinner and to pay towards past meal debts were motioned by Annette Taylor, seconded by Jenell Hoffman, and passed with a 5-0 vote.

The following approvals were made in the buildings and grounds department:

Approval to accept the HVAC quotes and begin work effective immediately

Approval to accept the pavement quotes and complete phase 1 of the pavement project, which would be the front circle of the high school

A motion was made by Annette Taylor, seconded by Jenell Hoffman, and passed unanimously.

Superintendent Hovis recommended approval to be a part of the Crane Credit Union Affinity debit card program. A motion was made by Jerry Braun, seconded by Eva George, and passing 5-0.

The elementary holiday music program will be December 8th at 1:30 in the high school gymnasium. A motion to approve this was made by Annette Taylor, seconded by Jenell Hoffman, and passed unanimously.

Items after 4:00 were as follows:

Personnel - Joanna Hampton for cafeteria cook

Motion made by Jenell Hoffman, seconded by Eva George, passing 5-0.

The following field trips were approved. A motion was made by Jerry Braun and seconded by Eva George and passed 5-0.

Business/Culinary students to Bloomington to speak with food truck vendors on October 27th

Junior Beta to Indiana State Jr Beta Convention in Evansville on November 9th

Elementary, Junior, and Senior Beta members to Gatlinburg, TN for National Beta Regional Leadership Summit March 6-8, 2024.

3rd grade to Westgate on November 16th

The first reading of the MS School Improvement Plan was held.

Superintendent Hovis gave a report on the following items: Ms. Hovis touched on the visit to Throop Elementary in Paoli recently in regard to opening our new elementary classroom. She was excited to announce that we will be offering a whole-child approach type of classroom. This type of approach uplifts students, highlights their strengths, efforts, and improvements, while giving students the resources needed to support their well-being, especially students who have endured trauma. Washington Community Schools enjoyed an entire day on our campus today as they brought approximately 60 Kindergarten students for a field trip. Students were able to tour our farm, learn about our animals, enjoy a hayride, a picnic lunch on campus, and games at the track. Field trips are being given to Washington and Loogootee elementary students the rest of this week. On Friday, October 27th, Mr. Ben Kent and Ms. Megan Hawkins, along with senior agricultural students, will be presenting information about our farm to table program at Vincennes University. They were invited to participate in the innovative teaching summit. Speaking of the food to table program, our agricultural department has supplied our school cafeteria with the following items this school year: potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, apples, pork, and beef. This is a collaborative effort made possible by our culinary, agriculture, shop, and cafeteria personnel. Our gym floors were recently refinished over fall break and look great. Thank you to Mr. Abel for scheduling that. On October 2nd, we celebrated national custodian day by thanking our school custodians for their work throughout the corporation. They have one of the toughest jobs in the school. Each custodian received a card, gift card, and cookies. Superintendent Hovis closed by thanking Mrs. Jessica Hert for her years of service as school counselor. She stated that Mrs. Hert was part of the beginning of the Early College program and was able to see it all the way through with our recent college graduates last school year. Ms. Hovis welcomed new school counselor, Mandy Hannah to the Jug Rox team!

Financial and other reports were approved with a motion made by Jerry Braun and seconded by Jenell Hoffman, and passing unanimously. Board president, Drexel Turpin, closed the meeting by thanking Larry Hembree & Joe Troutman for all of their hard work in the maintenance department getting things up to date that had been neglected for quite some time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6 P.M.