

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

**March 14, 2024**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Board Minutes**

The Shoals School Board was called to order at 6:00 pm on March 14, 2024. 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, Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson, Middle School Principal Bryson Abel, High School Principal Troy Zollars, Jonathan Sullivan, Theresa Holt, Nikki Brett, Mandy Hannah, and Corporation Secretary Darla Holt. There were no community patrons in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting on February 8, 2024 was motioned by Jerry Braun and seconded by Eva George. The minutes were approved with a vote of 5-0.

There were no comments from patrons.

Audrey Gibson, Elementary Principal, began with reporting that the Elementary School has been busy this past month in preparing for the IREAD-3 Assessment. This test is given to all Indiana 3rd graders. Shoals Elementary opted to have 2nd graders participate in taking the assessment to gain insight for early intervention. We are excited to announce that 20 second graders received a passing score. This is directly related to the implementation of our reading curriculum and early interventions by our teachers, staff, and parents. We are hopeful to meet the IDOE goal of 95% passing by 2027 with continued enrichment and intervention support for at-risk students.

IREAD-3 Summer Retake Assessment will be given the week of May 20th.

Kindergarten Round Up was held on March 8th and 11th. We currently have 38 students signed up for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Elementary K-3 team continues their work with Strobel Education. Teachers are preparing to implement the new Science of Reading Curriculum next school year.

Many classes are participating in field trips. The second grade attended Westgate at Crane this week and participated in fun STEM activities throughout their visit. Rox Star Learners in Mrs. LeTourneau's classroom will participate in Easter Seals: *Holiday World Day of Play*. This trip is fully funded by our local Shoals Lion's Club. We appreciate your support to our school.

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We are gearing up for Jug Rox Make A Difference Day. We have several Elementary teachers, staff and classes participating this year. Elementary students will participate in various volunteer opportunities around campus. The Elementary Student Council will be partnering with the Shoals Park Board. Thank you to Sierra Rutledge and the Town of Shoals for their partnership and collaboration in planning this event each year.

Thirty- seven Shoals Elementary 5th graders qualified for Academic Excellence. Any student who has maintained a 3.5 GPA from 4th grade through their first semester as a 5th grader qualifies. Eight have maintained a 4.0 or higher.

Principal Gibson wished all teachers, staff and students a fun and safe Spring Break!

Middle School Principal, Bryson Abel, began his report stating report cards went home March 14. He thanked Mrs. Wellman-Covey for including the Middle School students in the Middle School JugRox Make a Difference Day. Principal Abel expressed his appreciation to the Cafeteria staff for offering the Valentine's Day breakfast. Andalaysia Stewart was the February Student of the Month. Mr. Abel thanked Ms. Hovis for securing a grant for the MS Teacher's Mobile Lab. He also updated the board on some of the fun things the Middle School students were taking part in. Principal Abel ended his report stating the Middle School sports are already practicing in preparation for their seasons.

Building Principal Troy Zollars began his report about the Middle School and High School for a 7 period day for the 2024-25 school year. He also reported additional Dual Credit classes for the 2024-25 school year with new graduation Pathways. Principal Zollars also talked about the CEO of Martin County, a collaboration of Shoals and Loogootee. There are also new Internship opportunities for our students being planned. Mr. Zollars also informed the board that Ivy Tech is offering any high school student the opportunity to take a course on campus Summer 2024 free of charge. There will be 2024-25 counseling sessions set up the week after Spring Break for class schedules. The school planned an early release for students on March 15 for an all staff safety training. He also reported on the number of students who are qualifying for Academic Honors, Technical Honors and ICC Diplomas. Upcoming dates are Freshmen Orientation on March 28, 6-7:30 p.m., Senior Awards Night on May 13 with dinner at 5 p.m., with the Awards Ceremony at 6 p.m., and Graduation on May 18 at 2 p.m.

There were no items under Old Business.

The first item under new business was the following personnel recommendations: Mimi Hawkins, Montanna Kocher, Jonathan Sullivan, and Ashton Berry as Elementary Summer School teachers with Kelsey Hert as a substitute Summer School teacher. Cecil Davis as a paid cafeteria intern, Jon Haulk as an ECA driver, Cole Hovis as a Jr/Sr High School substitute teacher and the resignation of Mary Ellen Baker. The Board thanked Mrs. Baker for her 37 years of service which they are very appreciative of. A motion to

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approve was made by Annette Taylor seconded by Jerry Braun, approved with a 5-0 vote. An additional resignation was from Judy Harty from the Cafeteria. D. J. Harder was approved for Assistant Golf coach, and as well as Ben Kent to assist with school safety coordination and training. Eva George led the motion with Annette Taylor making the second, with a 5-0 vote for approval. Also approved was to move Theresa Holt to a full time teacher contract for Health Science related courses and Nikki Brett as our school nurse beginning next school year. Jenell Hoffman led the motion and Annette Taylor made the second motion. Motion approved 5-0.

The following athletic recommendations were as follows: Chad Hammond as Assistant Baseball coach, Travis Brett as Golf Coach with Chad Cundiff as Volunteer Assistant Golf coach. Brian Smith and Troy Zollars as volunteer Golf coaches. Additional school personnel approved were Tracey Stuckey as substitute custodian/cafeteria/teacher, Troy Zollars as School Safety Specialist, and Paul George as District Bus Trainer. Approval was requested to provide pay for an Assistant Golf coach. Funds are available due to other coaching positions not being filled for the 2023-24 school year. A motion to approve was made by Annette Taylor, seconded by Jenell Hoffman, approved with a 5-0 vote.

Field trips approved were Mrs. LeTourneau's Special Ed class to Mitchell High School for Special Track & Field Day April 26, Second grade to Paoli Rock N Bowl April 26, 8th grade to Indianapolis May 1, Mrs. LeTourneau's Multi-Cat Life Skills class and the Preschool to Holiday World May 15. A motion was made by Eva George, seconded by Jerry Braun and passed with a 5-0 vote. Additional field trips approved were for the Senior Class to the Indiana Statehouse March 24, the High School Band to Gatlinburg, Tennessee during Spring Break 2025, and the Biology 2 class to various cemeteries in Martin County April 30. A motion was made by Eva George, seconded by Jerry Braun and passed with a 5-0 vote.

Facility usage requests were for the Lion's Club to hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on the school grounds March 30. Eva George led the motion with Annette Taylor making the second. Motions were approved 5-0.

The following upcoming events were approved: Fifth grade Graduation on May 10 with their class picnic at the Shoals Ballpark following. Elementary Music Program on May 14, Elementary Field Day May 16 and Elementary Awards Day on May 17. Jerry Braun led the motion and Annette Taylor seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Additional request to launch the Dolly Parton Imagination Library on April 26 was approved with Eva Goerge and Jenell Hoffman making the motions. Request was unanimously approved.

Fundraisers approved were for the High School Cheerleaders to sell detergent, Elementary to sell mums next August, and the Class of 2026 for a Pick-A-Day fundraiser to raise money towards 2025 Prom, senior year expenses and their Graduation. Vote was 5-0 to approve with Eva George leading the motion and Annette Taylor making the second motion.

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Approval was requested for a Fishing Club depending on how many students show an interest. Jerry Braun led the motion to approve, with Eva George making the second. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote to approve.

The following policies had their First Readings. They were a Revised Disciplinary Code for the Middle School and High School 2024-2025 Handbook, and a Weapons Policy. The Shoals Community School Police Force Establishment also had its first reading. This policy is unfortunately having to be made due to Sheriff Greene's reluctance to sign a memorandum of understanding for SRO's with our school system.

An Expulsion Appeal Decision was approved by the board with Jerry Braun leading the motion, and Jenell Hoffman making the second motion, passing 5-0.

The early release on March 15 was approved by the board for all staff to attend a safety training. Annette Taylor and Eva George made the motions, passing 5-0.

Superintendent Hovis recommends increasing the board member pay retroactive to January 1, 2024 due to an Indianapolis rate establishment. Our school is very much appreciative of the time and effort our board members put into our school. The request was reluctantly approved with Eva George and Jerry Braun making the motions with a 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Hovis began by commending Tammy Cooper and her staff for always going above and beyond in the cafeteria and making holidays memorable for our students. They recently held a candlelight breakfast on Valentine's Day, and students enjoyed heart-shaped pancakes with strawberries. The cafeteria staff always provides meals for students traveling or special occasions such as testing. On February 22nd, Mr. Kent, Miss Hawkins, and their agricultural students hosted a farmer's appreciation breakfast for all local farmers and their families. The HS robotics team recently finished its season this past weekend at state competition. They were the #1 ranked team going into the playoffs and brought home the Control Award and the Finalist Alliance Award. They are already busy preparing for next year by working on outreach activities for this summer. The Captain at Crane has mentioned the Shoals robotics program a few times in his monthly community engagements. In his last presentation, he stated how we at Shoals are building up the future Crane STEM workforce through our robotics program, and other schools should be following our lead. Ms. Hovis commended the BETA students on their behavior and accomplishments at last week's recent leadership summit in Gatlinburg, TN. All three BETA groups qualified for Nationals, which will be held in Savannah, Georgia, this coming June. The students represented Shoals Schools well. Superintendent Hovis was recently notified that Shoals Schools is the recipient of a FEMA safe room project grant. This grant will award the school nearly 1 million dollars that can be used for construction purposes. This space can be used for additional classrooms, offices, restrooms, etc. Shoals is only the second school in Indiana to receive this award. Bus inspection was this week, and all corporation buses passed. The school also had a transportation audit, which was passed as well. The auditor commended Mrs. Darla Holt on how well-organized and prepared she was for the audit. Students will be released on Friday at 1:00 pm so that all

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staff can participate in a school-wide safety training. Staff will be trained on the new SchoolGuard App and techniques for crisis events. Ms. Hovis closed by wishing everyone a safe spring break!

Approval of the Leave Accounting Reports for February 2024 was made by Eva George, seconded by Jerry Braun, passing with a 5-0 vote.

A motion to pay claims was made by Jerry Braun, seconded by Eva George passing 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm. *The next Regular Board Meeting will be April 11, 2024.*