

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

**HIGH SCHOOL BOARDROOM (ROOM 305)  
7900 HWY 50  
SHOALS, INDIANA 47581**

**November 26, 2024**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Board Minutes**

The Shoals School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on November 26, 2024. 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, Interim High School Principal, Daniel Wolford, and Corporation Secretary Darla Holt. Middle School Principal Bryson Abel was absent. Community patrons in attendance were Lorna Troutman, Ethan Jones, and Jeff Jones.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting on October 24, 2024 was motioned by Eva George, seconded by Annette Taylor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Community Patron, Lorna Troutman, spoke to the board with updates regarding the recent Robotics competition, giving an overview of each team's projects. All three teams will advance to semi-state at Center Grove on December 14. The board congratulated all three teams.

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson presented Principal Abel's report. The Middle school students enjoyed participating in an interactive career exploration event at Job Spark in Evansville. This event had over 100 industry partners who provided interactive opportunities for students to explore and spark a career interest. 8th graders recently enjoyed their Education Hockey game in Evansville. It was the first hockey game for many of the students. 8th grade students were able to participate in Martin County Manufacturing day. Thanks to Jessica Potts and Martin County Alliance for putting this together. Mr. Abel wished to thank the following area businesses for allowing our students to learn about their businesses: Gold Bond, Loughmiller, Country Pines, and Red Fox cabinets. Red Ribbon week was a success as many activities took place. Thank you to Tina Rue for coordinating all of these activities. Close to 50 MS students went to Indiana State Beta Convention in Evansville. Thank you to Beta sponsor, Reva Troutman, for her commitment to our students and their Beta projects. Special thanks to Allison Taylor for riding the bus down/back with the students as supervisor. Middle School students participated at North Knox for the Spell Bowl. Thank You to Cassie Phillips for overseeing this endeavor.

Robotics had all 3 teams advance to Semi-State from their recent Evansville competition.

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Thanks 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. Mrs. Cornett and Mr. Abel attended the COSMOS meeting at Orleans Elementary School. New Curriculum and Pathways were discussed. The Shoals Middle School Student Council assisted in the kitchen for the Hoosier event at the Loogootee Methodist Church. Mrs. Heidi Hoffman was thanked for getting our students to help in the community. MS Boys and Girls basketball are enjoying success on the hardwood this winter already. Cheerleading and Colorguard are in full swing as well.

High School Interim Principal, Daniel Wolford began his report with an event called "Exploring Teaching Day" which was hosted by UofE with over 400 area students in attendance. Ms. Megan Hawkins and Mr. Wolford took students to Evansville interested in the Education field. Ms. Hawkins was on the Q and A panel as an alum and current educator. Students listened to a speech by Eric Jenkins, the 2024 Indiana Teacher of the Year. Students also toured the campus, and met with representatives of various school organizations.

The annual Veteran's Day ceremony was recently held. The ceremony involved students from all three buildings and was a success as always. A huge thank you to all who put this program together. A special thanks to our special guest speaker, Woody Hembree. Over 50 HS students took part in the Beta competition and convention on Nov. 15th and 16th. Many thanks for the hard work that goes into this event. Special thanks to Reva Troutman and Megan Hawkins.

Shoals hosted a College and Career Fair on Friday, November 22nd. Students in grades 9-12 from Shoals and Loogootee attended. There were 32 businesses and 12 college/trade schools represented. Students were given a "passport" to keep them on track during their time at the fair.

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson began her report with the annual Hearing Screenings that were completed for Elementary Students in grades Kindergarten, First, and 4th grades. Harvest Health assisted school nurse, Mrs. Nikki Brett with all screenings. The Martin County Community Foundation awarded our school with funding for Jug Rox Make A Difference Day. Shoals Second Grade visited Marengo Cave for a fun field trip! REMC has provided our Elementary with funding to start an afterschool tutoring program.

Shoals Elementary celebrated Veterans Day on November 11, 2024. Special Guest Speaker, Mr. Woody Hembree, made additional visits to several elementary classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Hembree, for your service.

Congratulations to Shoals Elementary Beta and Robotics Club for recent achievements at the Indiana State Beta Convention and Robotics Competition.

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Elementary Winter Sports are underway. Thank you to all student athletes, coaches, volunteers and parents who are committed to building our athletic programs.

The monthly COSMOS Administration Meeting was held at Orleans Elementary School. Mrs. Gibson along with an additional administration team attended. Shoals will host in December. Congratulations to Preschool teacher and director, Mrs. Ashton Berry and her husband Jordan, on the birth of their daughter Brooke.

Mrs. LeTourneau has been implementing the Robokind curriculum for the past few years with her students. This program was initially funded by a grant, which former special education teacher, Ms. Terra Boyd, received. Mrs. LeTourneau utilizes an interactive robot named Milo for daily phonics, social skills and emotional learning tasks for her students. We will continue to provide training on the Robokind curriculum. There will be additional training December 6th for several other teachers and staff.

Mrs. Rollins second grade classroom made homemade butter and was able to share a tasty snack with classmates. Preschool students are learning character traits, social skills and celebrated with a Friendsgiving today! Teachers are doing amazing things in the classrooms!

As we close out the month of November, Mrs. Gibson expressed how appreciative and thankful she is as an administrator to lead a building with such amazing educators and staff! We have the best at Shoals Elementary School!

The first item under new business was the approval to hire the following coaching staff: Andy Purdue-6th grade girls' basketball, Rylan Perry-7th & 8th grade boys' basketball, and Hallie Wyman-7th grade volleyball. RECN stipends for the following committee members were approved: Kindra Hovis, Daniel Wolford, Danielle Cornett, Myrna Greene, Tina Rue, Ben Kent, Kallie Fuhrman and Megan Hawkins. Amy Money was approved to receive a stipend to assist with the cafeteria director duties. Bailey LeRoy, Chyanne Price, and Megan Benefiel were approved as Winter Guard volunteers. Jerry Braun led the motion with Annette Taylor making the second. Motion passed 5-0.

Paul George was approved to receive a stipend for serving as our district bus driver trainer. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Eva George abstaining. Jerry Braun led the motion with Annette Taylor making the second motion to approve.

Additional personnel items approved were the resignation of Shelby Sorrells from preschool, the resignation of Crystal Tyler as 6th grade teacher, the rehiring of Megan Benefiel for the cafeteria, and TAG stipends to be awarded to designated teachers. Jerry Braun led the motion with Jenell Hoffman making the second motion, passing with a 5-0 vote. Christmas bonuses were approved for non-certified staff and bus drivers who are not

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a non-certified employee. The same motions were made as before with a 3-0-2 vote with Eva George and Jerry Braun abstaining.

The following facility usages were approved: The Martin County Alliance Leadership class to be housed in the Early College and Career Room. Jenell Hoffman led the motion to approve with Jerry Braun making the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Several fundraisers were approved with a 5-0 vote. Junior Class Parents to sell hair tinsel and face stickers during the JV/Varsity Boys' basketball home games, Elementary Beta to host a calendar fundraiser, Winter Guard to host a Parent Night Out on December 10, the Beta Clubs to hold the Beta Club Light Show in the Cafeteria, and the SHS Rockettes to hold the Annual Dance Clinic on December 7. Eva George led the motion to approve with Jerry Braun making the second. Also approved were for the cheerleaders to sell JugRox themed gear throughout the basketball season and the Softball Program to host a mattress sale November 2025. Annette Taylor led the motion with Jenell Hoffman making the second. Motion passed 5-0.

Field trips approved were for the 5th & 6th grade boys' basketball team to go Angel Tree Shopping, the Padanaram School to Buskirk Chumley Theater, 4th graders to Crane for STEM, and the 2nd graders to go caroling at the Senior Citizens and Courthouse. Annette Taylor made a motion to approve with Jenell Hoffman seconding the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The following were approved: to extend the SLP services through Parallel until the end of the 2024-25 school year, health insurance premium rates for 2025, and Kimberly Cundiff to be appointed to the Shoals Public Library Board beginning December 1, 2024. Eva George and Jerry Braun led the motions which passed unanimously.

Approval was given to cancel old checks with an outstanding period of two or more years from the Jr/Sr High ECA account. Eva George and Jerry Braun led the motions. Motions were approved 5-0.

Superintendent Hovis began by showing the Team Cooper shirts that staff and students wore on Tuesday in honor of Tammy Cooper, who is currently fighting cancer. She thanked Jessica Hert & Kelley Wellman-Covey for organizing this fundraiser, making the shirts, and donating all proceeds to Tammy. A total of 175 shirts were purchased. She said the district has had a very successful couple of weeks between Beta and Robotics competitions. All three Beta clubs are advancing to nationals in June, which will be held in Orlando, Florida. All three robotic teams recently advanced to semi-state, with the RoxStars winning the Champions award out of twenty teams. Winter sports are now in full swing, and Ms. Hovis wishes all teams the best of luck. She wanted to give a shout-out to the 5th & 6th-grade boys' basketball coaches for instilling an invaluable lesson by taking their teams Angel Tree shopping last week. Shoals Elementary was selected recently to highlight the Robokind program and was visited by state representative Mr.

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Ed Clere and Indiana General Assembly Mr. Jon Gubera. Robokind supports our robot, Milo, used for autistic students and students who need support in phonics and social & emotional skills. Ms. Hovis thanked the Martin County Community Foundation for selecting Shoals Schools for two surprise grants awarded during the annual foundation dinner in November. The foundation awarded Jug Rox Make A Difference Day and Student Services money. Superintendent Hovis closed by wishing everyone a great Thanksgiving holiday.

Leave accounting for October was approved unanimously. Jenell Hoffman and Jerry Braun made the motions.

Motion to pay claims was approved with Jerry Braun and Eva George making the motions with a 5-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. *The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 6 p.m.*