

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

January 23, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 23, 2025. In attendance were President Drexel Turpin, Vice-President Eva George, Secretary Annette Taylor and Members Lorna Troutman and Ethan Jones. Staff in attendance were Superintendent Kindra Hovis, Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson, Interim High School Principal, Daniel Wolford, teacher Ben Kent, and Corporation Secretary Darla Holt. Community patrons in attendance were Amanda Holt, Ann Baker, Norma Baker, Brandon and Cassie Truelove, Etta Franklin, and Jeff Jones.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular meetings from December 17, 2024 and January 3, 2025 were motioned by Annette Taylor seconded by Ethan Jones. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Patrons who addressed the board were Mr. Jeff Jones, Mrs. Mandi Holt, and Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Truelove. Mr. Jones began by stating his concern for adding wrestling as a potential club sport, as other athletic programs are already suffering due to low participation. He was concerned that adding another sport could drop numbers as our student-athletes are already spread thin. Mrs. Holt addressed concerns regarding her MS volleyball program, and Mr. & Mrs. Truelove was interested in bringing on a middle school baseball program for students who have aged out of summer league yet are too young for high school baseball. In response to these items, board president Drexel Turpin asked, "How do we get more students involved in athletics?" A staff member in attendance, Mr. Kent, spoke up and stated that he believed that caring and dedicated adults who stepped up to coach are the reasons that students became involved and passionate about a sport, much like Mr. Gee did when he was a student here and was part of the founding of the Shoals soccer program.

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson her report stating students and staff ended the first semester on December 20th with a fun celebration hosted and organized by PBIS coordinators Ms. Amy Money and Mrs. Kelley Wellman-Covey. It was a great success that included parents, students, and teachers. Principal Gibson thanked the Shoals PBIS program and Danielle Murphy for all of their efforts on implementing this program throughout the school year. Kindergarten students Blythe Taylor, Miles Cundiff, Mila Yanez- Burchell, and Bentley Brett participated in the SHS Homecoming on Saturday,

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January 4th. Mid-year benchmark assessments are in progress and will be completed by the end of January. IRead 3 Parent Communication letters were sent home this past week to all 2nd and 3rd grade parents. Any third grade student who passed the assessment last year as a second grade student, does not need to take it again.

Kindergarten Round Up for the 25-26 school year will be on February 28th. Mrs. Gibson thanked Mr. Jonathan Cropp and Mrs. Tina Troutman for volunteering their time to offer physicals to our incoming students. On behalf of the Elementary we would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who played a role in ensuring the safety of our students during this month's winter weather. Our bus drivers navigated challenging conditions with care, while our maintenance crew worked tirelessly to clear school grounds. Special thanks to our teachers for their flexibility, our parents for their patience, and to the town, county and state highway crews for their efforts in keeping roads safe. Lastly, she thanked Ms. Hovis for her commitment to the safety of our students, staff, and teen drivers. Prioritizing safety over convenience shows her dedication to our school community. Thank you for making those difficult decisions, we appreciate your leadership.

High School Interim Principal, Daniel Wolford began his report stating students were excited to be back for this second semester. He thanked everyone for a wonderful 1st semester and also thanked all of our staff for being flexible with this round of school cancellations, delays, e-learning, etc. Kallie Fuhrman has started in her new position full time now. She has done an outstanding job and has really hit the ground running. She is working hard to finalize the 2025-26 master schedule, as well as making sure our current seniors are getting all required classes before graduation. On Dec. 20th, Ms. Hawkins led an Alum Mentorship meeting between current seniors, and Shoals alum currently attending college. The alum shared advice and their college experiences with Shoals seniors over lunch. Plans are to continue this next year as it was very productive and a great experience for both.

Homecoming was held on Saturday, January 4th. Thanks to all who gave their time and efforts to make this happen. A special thanks to Cammie Sanders for decorating, planning, and chaperoning the Homecoming Dance. Shoals and Mitchell students will be participating in clinicals at Stonebridge Health Campus in Bedford several Fridays this semester. They will also be taking their CNA exam at the Ivy Tech campus in Bloomington on April 30th. Shoals Pep Band will be competing in the Orleans Pep Band Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 25th @ Orleans High School Gym. Our band is set to perform at approximately 12:10 pm.

Shoals FFA and Shoals Culinary are hosting the annual Farmers Breakfast on Thursday, February 20th @ 9:00 am. We are requesting those who would like to attend to please RSVP by Friday, February 14th. Reservations are not required, but it does help with

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planning for the amount of food to make. Meal will be prepared by products raised on the Jug Rox Farm!

Ms. Hovis presented Middle School Principal Bryson Abel's report. Mr. Able was unable to attend the meeting due to coaching at a Middle School ball game. Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball teams will be participating in the BCC tournament on February 3rd. Their seasons are winding down and both have had successful seasons. Winter Guard will be performing for the first time at this Saturday's Varsity Girls game. A special thanks to his staff for all of their hard work during E-Learning. This is not an easy task and goes unnoticed by most. Study Island Benchmarks are being worked on and will be completed by January 31st. Report Cards for the 1st Semester have been sent home. The Middle School had 22 students reach high honors and 54 total students make the honor roll. We were just shy of 50% of our student population reaching honor roll status. The Middle School attendance rate for the month of December was 92%. A special thanks to everyone involved in taking care of our parking lots, roads, and to Ms. Hovis for the time and effort it takes to make decisions on snow days. I know that is not easy. Camp kilowatt will be here the last week of January to talk with our students about electricity and the camp that they have each June.

The first item under new business was the approval to hire Gage Gilbert as CTE intern in the STEM department, Glenn Gray as second shift custodian, Bill Bush as substitute custodian, and Amber Tedrow as substitute teacher. The resignation of Melissa Grogan from the cafeteria was also approved. The board approved a request to hire a full time preK assistant utilizing the award that MCCF recently gifted the school. Maternity leave for Emelia Yanez from March 10 to the end of the school year was also approved. Ethan Jones led the motion with Annette Taylor making the second. Motion passed 5-0. Other personnel requests approved were for non-certified staff who are currently on the non-certified payscale to receive a \$1/hour raise effective on the February 7 payroll, Mike Jones as the Varsity Girls' Softball coach, and the resignation of Heather Jordan as MS Resource aide. Annette Taylor led the motion with Lorna Troutman making the second. Motion passed 5-0. The Co-Ed Wrestling Club for Middle School students was tabled at this time. The school will first request any interest from the students before proceeding.

Additional personnel items discussed were the hiring of Aulbrey Baker as Special Education Assistant and backup Speech coordinator, and permission to pay stipends for the After-school/tutoring care from the Elementary Preschool Fund. Lorna Troutman and Annette Taylor made the motions to approve, which passed unanimously.

Field trips approved were: CNA class off-site visits for several clinicals for the 2nd semester, JugRox Robotix to West Lafayette January 25 and Avon February 22, the Band to the Orleans Pep Band Invitational January 25, HS Basketball girls to IU February 1 for

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and IU basketball game, various student groups to Indianapolis February 11 for Page for a Day, HS Student Council and Beta to various local establishments for Kindness Month in February, FFA to the Kentucky Farm Machinery Show at the Expo Center, February 13, and Beta clubs to Gatlinburg, TN March 5-7. Eva George led the motion to approve with Ethan Jones making the second, passing 5-0. Other field trips approved were the 5th grade to Crane February 3, HS students to Young Women LEAD March 12 at VUJC, Junior and Senior Biology classes on March 28 to various cemeteries for data collection, the Shoals Winter Guard to attend a competition at Fort Wayne February 8 and Science students to the Holcomb Observatory and Planetarium at Butler University on May 6. Eva George made a motion to approve with Ethan Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The following fundraisers were approved for Half Court Shot at Boys' JV/Varsity and C-team games hosted by the parents of the Elementary Beta students, Elementary Beta to host a 50/50 raffle during the Homecoming game and possibly other events to help with the Florida and Tennessee trips through June 30. Lorna Troutman and Annette Taylor made the motions to approve passing unanimously. Additional fundraisers approved were the Elementary Student Council to sell suckers beginning February 10, MS Beta Club Boosters to hold a MS dance February 21, Drama Club to host a "murder mystery" March 1, annual cheer clinic and performance February 25 and the Ag/Shop/Culinary classes for their annual strawberry sales. The use of the cafeteria for the November Mattress sale was also approved. Eva George and Annette Taylor made the motions to approve. Motions were approved with a 5-0 vote.

Facility usage requests were approved unanimously. JugRox Robotix to use several areas of the school for an FTC Robotics Qualifying Tournament February 15 and SPA to use the Auxiliary gym March 1 for a Spring Home Show and the use of both gyms November 1 for the annual Hobby/Craft Show. Eva George and Annette Taylor made the motions to approve. Motions passed with a 4-0-1 vote with Lorna Troutman abstaining. Other events approved were the Drama clubs Spring show on May 3 and the Post Prom March 29. Lorna Troutman made the first motion with Eva George making the second. Motions to approve passed unanimously.

The 2025-2026 school calendar was approved with a 5-0 vote. Lorna Troutman and Eva George made the motions.

Kindergarten RoundUp was approved to be held February 28 with a unanimous vote. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones made the motions.

The board approved the cancellation of checks and electronic payments that are over 2 years old. Lorna Troutman and Ethan Jones made the motions which passed unanimously.

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Donation containers were approved to be set out at Varsity Boys' Basketball games for one of our assistant coach's family member who has severe medical issues. Lorna Troutman and Eva George led the motions to approve with a 5-0 vote.

The board approved the donation from a Secret Santa for the cafeteria with a 5-0 vote. Ethan Jones and Annette Taylor made the motions to approve.

Also discussed were recent math scores from state testing and strategies in place to improve them.

The Leave accounting for December 2024 was approved. Lorna Troutman and Eva George led the motions which passed 5-0.

All claims were approved to be paid. Ethan Jones and Annette Taylor made the motions which passed unanimously.

Superintendent Hovis began by thanking the staff for their flexibility on the snow days and delays. It is not easy to continuously change lesson plans or lose instructional time with their students. It was good to be back to a regular day on Thursday. A huge shout out to the maintenance department and Mr. Kent for working outside in the cold temperatures, salting, plowing, and shoveling snow and ice. The staff were grateful for this when they arrived back to work. Also, a big thank you to our bus drivers who ensured our students made it to and from school safely. Ms. Hovis is excited to watch our first-ever winter guard performance this Saturday night, which is also our coaches vs cancer game, where we will honor Ms. Tammy Cooper. Tammy has been such a trooper and continues to show up to work with a positive attitude, all while undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Ms. Hovis wished the high school robotics team the best of luck at their competition this Saturday. Also, she stated that we are proud to be a hosting site for a robotics competition on February 15th. Over winter break, the MCCF surprised our school with a \$42,000 gift to help expand our preschool program.

Discussions are being had on how to best utilize this gift to benefit our students the most. A shout-out was given to Mrs. Danielle Cornett, who has been training weekly since October, for her new role as curriculum director. Mrs. Cornett is a quick learner who manages her workload independently and has exceptional organizational skills. Something she has been working on is analyzing corporation testing data. She has scheduled someone to come from the state in person to meet with all teachers who administer ILEARN. This team will walk teachers through how to interpret and use data reports to meet the needs of individual students, offer IDOE resources, and plan the next steps for instruction and intervention in hopes of increasing our scores.

On top of that, Mrs. Cornett has also scheduled someone to come in and provide our teachers training in utilizing a tool purchased earlier in the year through Edmentum. This tool is to be used as an additional instruction resource, especially regarding the critical standard skills found on ILEARN. Another staff member who has hit the ground running in a new role is Mrs. Kallie Fuhrman. Mrs. Fuhrman will be a tremendous asset to our MS

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and HS, as she genuinely cares for our students. She is working hard to ensure students are on track to graduate while also meeting other needs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6 p.m.