

SHOALS COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

REGULAR SESSION

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

February 17, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on February 17, 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, Middle School Principal, Bryson Abel, teachers Ben Kent, Traci LeTourneau, Kathy Overton, and Christin Johnson, MS Secretary Allison Taylor, and Corporation Secretary Darla Holt. Community patrons in attendance were Jeff Jones, Mike Jones, Cody and Kim Bauer, Michael, Sydney and Lucas Fischer, Etta Franklin, Jason, Becky and Ily Riggins, and Ann Baker.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting from January 23, 2025 were motioned by Annette Taylor seconded by Eva George. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Sixth graders, Lucas and Sydney Fischer and Ily Riggins did a wonderful job presenting their place based education project to the board. Their project was selected from projects submitted in the entire Great Lakes Region to receive a grant to implement their project. Mrs. LeTourneau gave a presentation with Milo, a robot used for teaching in the elementary special education classrooms, and an update on her recent visit to the state house.

Patron Cody Bauer asked how the Middle School baseball program was progressing. It was decided at the last board meeting to reach out to see how many students would be interested. Approximately 13 students expressed interest in being on a Middle School baseball team. It will be discussed with the High School baseball coach on how to proceed. Ann Baker addressed the board with her concern that she feels the Robotic teams are not recognized by the school enough.

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson began her report with the students recently celebrating the 100th and 101st days of school! Both days were filled with fun and engaging activities that allowed students to reflect on their progress and growth. There was a special focus on fun learning, with the students embracing the joy of reaching these important milestones. Additionally, we had several *gracefully aged* students (students

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dressed as older versions of themselves) and a whole slew of puppies running through the school halls, bringing smiles to everyone!

February was a month dedicated to intentional acts of kindness. Students made a collaborative effort to model kindness throughout the month, showcasing their empathy and thoughtfulness. Special guest book buddies visited classrooms to read together, and students wrote kind notes to each other and shared treats with staff, thanking them for their hard work and dedication.

5th-grade students and teachers had an exciting opportunity to attend a STEM-related field trip to Westgate at Crane this month. During this trip, students participated in a series of STEM activities and challenges, allowing them to explore and deepen their understanding of science, technology, engineering, and math concepts in a hands-on environment.

The Elementary Boys and Girls Winter Sports Season has concluded. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the coaches, parents, student athletes, and fans who supported our young Jug Rox this season.

We are incredibly proud to share that Mrs. Traci LeTourneau was invited to speak at the Indiana Statehouse on behalf of Robokind, a company that develops robots to assist students in the classroom. Mrs. LeTourneau highlighted how she and her classroom aides use Milo, the Robokind robot, to support students with various needs. We thank Mrs. LeTourneau for her advocacy and for representing the needs of all students, ensuring they have the tools necessary to succeed.

All elementary staff participated in on-campus professional development today. Thank-you Mrs. Cornett for organizing these sessions.

Mrs. Gibson also updated the board for the upcoming events: Kindergarten Round Up Friday, February 28th, and the IREAD testing window is March 3rd-14th

Middle School Principal Bryson Abel reported the Middle School Dance was February 21st, hosted by the MS Beta Club. During the teacher Flex day, staff had training with the Martin County Ambulance service, and an ALICE training with Mr. Ben Kent. Principal Abel also met with the Middle School teachers and had an in depth discussion on Study Island and ILEARN data. Synchronous Learning has been great for the Middle School. Mr. Abel gave a special thanks to Allison Taylor for making phone calls the first day to the students who hadn't logged on yet. He also thanked his staff as they've been incredible this past week with the synchronous learning and with our approach to the upcoming testing.

Ms. Hovis presented High School Interim Principal Daniel Wolford's report with the Pep Band having recently competed in the Orleans Pep Band invitational. They finished 3rd

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overall and received high marks from the judges. The Winter Colorguard recently competed at Greenwood. The girls received a silver award and were very close to a gold. Mrs. Tyler is very proud of the girls. They also competed February 22 at Terre Haute.

The girls' varsity basketball team competed in the sectional against Vincennes Rivet. They unfortunately were defeated. Mr. Wolford thanked Mrs. Sanders for organizing the dress up days and pep rally. FFA week was February 17th-21st. There were many celebrations planned. Shoals FFA and the Culinary class hosted the annual Farmers' Breakfast February 20th. Shoals will host the final RECN Quad meeting on February 26. The schools in our quad are Shoals, Paoli, Perry Central and Rising Sun. Mr. Wolford thanked all students and staff for their outstanding participation in the latest rounds of elearning. We know that in person learning is always the best option, but our students and staff did as best as they could given the circumstances.

Under old business the Middle School Wrestling Club was revisited. It was approved with a 5-0 vote. Annette Taylor and Eva George led the motions.

The first item under new business was the approval to hire the following athletic staff: Brooklyn Jones-Softball JV (assistant) coach, Jim Potts, Aimee Harder, Tony Graber, Jeff Jones as volunteer softball coaches, and Rebecca Rollins as volunteer statistician. Baseball coaching staff approved were Al Crutchfield Varsity coach, Chad Hammond-JV coach and Josh Fuartado-Varsity Assistant coach. All three will be in charge of a Middle school baseball team. Track coaching staff approved were Reva Troutman-varsity girls' coach, Rhonda Sanders-varsity girls' assistant coach, and Kathy Overton-MS girl's coach. Ethan Jones led the motion to approve with Lorna Troutman making the second, motions passed 5-0. Also approved were Kaitlin Allen as preschool aide, Izayah Jackson as student intern in the custodial/maintenance department, Janelle Riggle as volleyball volunteer coach, and the resignations of Mike Hopkins and Jorden English from High School basketball coaching. Annette Taylor and Lorna Troutman led the motions, which passed 5-0. Other coaches approved were Kenzie Perry as volunteer softball coach, Travis Brett as volunteer girls basketball coach grades 1-4, and as head Golf coach. Lorna Troutman led the motion with Eva George making the second motion, passing with a 5-0 vote. Chad Cundiff was approved as Assistant Golf coach, with John Gore, Brian Smith, and Nick Bowman as volunteer golf coaches. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve, passing 5-0.

Elementary girls' basketball camp on Saturdays in February were approved 5-0 with Ethan Jones and Annette Taylor leading the motions.

Academic teacher requests deadline has been changed from June 1 to May 1. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions. Motions passed 5-0.

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Summer school dates have been set from May 27-June 6. 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Annette Taylor and Lorna Troutman led the motions to approve, which passed unanimously.

The Athletic Booster Club was approved to use the Auxiliary Gym February 21 at Senior night for a cake/punch reception. Lorna Troutman and Eva George led the motions, passing 5-0.

The board approved a PSA with SiteLogiq to conduct a feasibility study. Lorna Troutman led the motion to approve with Ethan Jones making the second motion. Motions passed unanimously.

Field trips for the High School Health Care class, the High School Blue Chip Academic Bowl competition and the High School Area Academic Bowl competition were all approved with a 5-0 vote. Eva George and Lorna Troutman made the motions.

The board approved the Shoals Lions Club to use the school parking lot for the annual Easter Egg Hunt April 19. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions, which were approved 5-0.

The Elementary girls' basketball teams were approved to sell Merkley Meats as a fundraiser. Lorna Troutman and Eva George led the motions to approve, which passed 5-0.

The renewal of the school's liability insurance through German American Insurance was approved 5-0. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones led the motions.

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

Superintendent Hovis congratulated the Jug Rox Robotix for receiving the Innovate and Winning Alliance awards at the most recent competition. She also stated how exciting it was that Shoals was the host site for a state qualifying event. Twenty teams competed at Shoals last Saturday. She thanked Dean & Lorna Troutman for organizing the event and ensuring everything ran smoothly. The teachers participated in their second flex-waiver day on February 17th, which Mrs. Danielle Cornett organized. The day focused on school safety & training. Staff attended the following breakout sessions: ALICE school safety led by Mr. Ben Kent, emergency medication training led by Nurse Nikki Brett, CPR led by Mrs. Theresa Holt, emergency awareness training led by the Martin County Ambulance Service, and ILEARN/IAM/SAT certification led by Mrs. Danielle Cornett. It was a great professional development day, led mostly in-house. Superintendent Hovis stated that Mother Nature or good health has not cooperated with the school lately, so teachers and students have had to adapt to a new learning style called synchronous learning. Seeing how well students and staff adapted to this new learning style was impressive. Ms. Hovis gave a health update and stated that by law, a school is mandated to report to the health

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department if they reach 20% of students being absent due to poor health. It was decided to close the school for a few days as that number hit close to 30%, far surpassing the 20% rule. She thanked the custodial staff who deep cleaned the buildings during this time. National Counselors Week was February 3-7, and a shout-out was given to all of our amazing counselors. They have one of the most challenging jobs in a school system. Ms. Hovis congratulated the newest club, Shoals Winterguard, for receiving silver at their most recent competition and wished them the best of luck at their upcoming competition. They were only 10 points away from receiving gold. Superintendent Hovis closed by announcing upcoming events such as the annual Farmers Appreciation Breakfast, Kindergarten Round-Up on February 28th, the drama club's Murder Mystery Dinner on March 1st, and SPA's first HOME show on March 1st.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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