

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

March 13, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 13, 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, MS Secretary Allison Taylor, and Corporation Secretary Darla Holt. Community patrons in attendance were Jeff Jones, Etta Franklin, and Chad Hammond.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting from February 17, 2025 were motioned by Lorna Troutman, seconded by Eva George. The minutes were approved unanimously.

There were no comments from patrons.

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson began her report with Kindergarten Roundup for the 2025-2026 school year which was successful, with 28 students currently registered. A big thank you to all teachers and staff who assisted in making the event a success. We are also grateful for the generous community support. Bauer Family Coffee Shop provided all new Jug Rox students with a coupon for a free cookie. RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) assembled early literacy and writing skills bags for all students at registration.

Mrs. Gibson thanked the cafeteria staff and volunteers for hosting a breakfast event for our students and their parents. These moments help strengthen our school-community relationships and create lasting memories for our families. She congratulated the Shoals Robotix team and coaches for their achievements at the state competition! Our elementary students showed their support by sponsoring individual team members, creating posters, writing cards, and providing small treats leading up to the big event. We are proud of their dedication and success! The third grading period was completed last week. Grades have been entered, and report cards were sent home on Friday, March 14th.

Second and third-grade students have worked extremely hard over the past two weeks to complete IREAD testing. Official results will be released by the DOE in April. We continue to see an increase in the number of students passing, which is a testament to the dedication of our teachers, classroom paraprofessionals, parents, and the students themselves. Mrs. Gibson thanked the 2nd and 3rd grade teaching teams for their

March 13, 2025

commitment to student success: Mimi Hawkins, Rebecca Rollins, Sherri Braun, Kelsey Hert, Renee Childress, Karen Ray, Kimberly Stroud, Montanna Kocher, Madeline Riley, Pam McCarty, Becky Riggins, Joyce Jones, and Jennifer Guinn.

Principal Gibson gave a special thank you to Preschool Director Molley Parsley for stepping up to lead the program over the past few months. She has done a fantastic job, bringing creativity and excitement to our Early Childhood Program. We are excited to announce that Preschool Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will be held on April 4th. Thank you to all staff, students, families, and community partners for their continued support of Shoals Elementary. Your dedication makes a difference in the lives of our students every day.

Mrs. Gibson thanked Danielle Cornett for all her help with IREAD testing organizations. She ended her report thanking the Shoals River Rat Book Club for donations to the library book vending machine.

Allison Taylor presented Middle School Principal Bryson Abel's report. March students of the month are Luke Fischer and Tritt Rutledge. Middle School attended a leadership summit in Gatlinburg, TN. MS Winterguard competed at Terre Haute recently. They've had a successful first season with their last competition at Orleans on March 14. Students have been busy this week taking their Spring Study Island benchmark tests to help us monitor their progress as we head towards ILEARN next month. The end of the 3rd grading period ended Friday, March 7. Report Cards went home March 13.

Congratulations to the Robotics Team for winning a State Championship last weekend! MS Member was Bentley Smith. The PBIS store is back up and running! Thank you to Mrs. Wellman-Covey and Amy Money for their commitment to this program. The MS celebrated their Social Workers last week on Monday by providing them with gift cards and lunch. Special Thanks to Kelley Wellman-Covey, Brittany Bushey, and Diana Turpin. The Drama club hosted their first dinner show on March 1st and it was a success. They are planning another play in early May.

Audrey Gibson presented Interim High School Principal Daniel Wolford's report. All Juniors took the SAT on March 4th. He thanked Danielle Cornett for organizing this testing. He also thanked the teachers for their flexibility during the testing time. Congratulations to the Shoals Robotics Team for their State Championship that was earned on March 8th. The team will be moving on to the World's Competition in Houston, TX in April. The High School had a week long dress up week, as well as a pep rally on Thursday March 6th for the team. Congratulations to the Shoals JV/Varsity Basketball team on a great season. Mr. Wolford thanked the senior players and cheerleaders for all of their hard work and commitment to the programs. We are officially full swing into the Spring sports season with track, softball, and baseball practices getting underway.

March 13, 2025

Twenty-three HS girls attended the Young Women's Lead conference in Jasper on March 12th. This was an all day event and was highlighted by the guest speaker, Mrs. Kate Gladdin, an expert on teen resiliency.

Thirteen seniors plus chaperones left for Washington D.C. on last Wednesday morning. We wish them well and hope they have great weather and a great experience.

In honor of FFA week, Mrs. Overton organized an "Adopt-A-Pig" contest in which classrooms collected change/money in a piggy bank to raise money for the Martin County Humane Society. \$2000 was collected in this effort! Mrs. Goodman's class had the "heaviest" pig weighing in at 51 lbs, and Ms. Riley's class raised the most money by collecting \$225.87! Thank you to all of the students and classrooms that participated. A Talent Show was held Thursday afternoon. Approximately 14 students in MS and HS participated with a wide variety of talents displayed.

The first item under new business was the approval to hire the following athletic staff: Jackson Allbright, Nick Gerkin, and Jared Wright-all as volunteer High School Track coaches. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve with a unanimous vote. Jameson Coy, Jim Potts and Rodney Rincker-all volunteer Middle School Baseball coaches. Kallie Fuhrman and Kindra Hovis as volunteer Softball coaches. Annette Taylor led the motion to approve with Ethan Jones making the second, motions passed 5-0. The following resignations were accepted and approved: Chris Boylan as High School Special Education teacher, and Jace Walton as IT Director. Annette Taylor led the motion with Lorna Troutman making the second motion. Motions passed 5-0. Also approved were Cliff Goodman as sub in the Middle School and High School Special Education classrooms, Mary Ellen Baker as a High school Special Education teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, Scott Fishback as the Driver's Ed instructor for Road Star, also to use a classroom for the class instruction. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions, which passed 5-0. An open gym program was tabled at this time to allow more information to be gathered. An additional resignation was accepted and approved for Xaviara Fuartado as Special Education aide, Ben Kent to be moved from the position of safety coordinator to construction manager for large scale projects, with the SRO or the High School Admin to serve as the school safety specialist. It was approved for Megan Benefiel to receive a stipend for helping with the Winter Guard. Employees who help transport a displaced student will receive a stipend, Teri Kerr approved as volunteer track coach and Amanda Wilson approved for the cafeteria. It was also approved to post an additional SRO position. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones led the motions, which passed 5-0. The resignation of Allen Crutchfield as Varsity Baseball and Varsity Basketball coach was accepted and approved. Josh Fuartado was approved as Interim Head High School Baseball coach. Lorna Troutman and Eva George led the motions to approve which passed 5-0. The resignation of Kindra Hovis from the position of Superintendent and to

March 13, 2025

fill the vacant High School Principal position for the 2025-2026 school year was approved per her request. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones led the motions, which passed unanimously.

Field trips for the High School JugRox Robotix to the University of Indianapolis for the FTC Robotics State Championship, the Student Ran Business to VUJC, the Health Care class to Ivy Tech-Bloomington, the second grade to Paoli Rock N Bowl, Special Education Classes to Mitchell High School for Special Track and Field Day, and the Agricultural classes to Feldun Purdue ag Center-Bedford. Ethan Jones led the motions with Eva George making the second. Motions were approved with a 5-0 vote. Additional trips approved were: FACS, Ag, and FFA classes (8-12) to the Martin county Humane Society, 6th & 7th Graders to Westgate at Crane for the NSWC Crane Science Fair & Engineering Design Challenge, Juniors and Seniors to Mitchell High School for the COSMOS College and Career Fair, and for the Elementary Special Education and pre-K classes to Holiday World for Special Education Play Day. Ethan Jones led the motion to approve with Annette Taylor making the second motion. Motions passed 5-0.

The following fundraisers were approved: Elementary to sell Big Splash and Wilstem Ranch tickets March 24-April 7 and the Class of 2027 March 24-April 4 to sell trash bags for upcoming class expenses. Lorna Troutman and Annette Taylor led the motions, passing unanimously. An additional fundraiser approved was for the JugRox Robotics program to sell JugRox robotic State Championship t-shirts. Annette Taylor and Eva George led the motions to approve, passing 5-0.

The following facility usages were approved: Hoosier Uplands to use the cafeteria April 8 for their Spring enrollment process. Eva George and Annette Taylor led the motions to approve, passing 5-0. Robotics Club was approved to use the cafeteria April 7 for a coach and team members banquet dinner with Eva George and Annette Taylor making the motions with a 5-0 vote.

Donations accepted and approved were from the family of Robert David Lythgoe for delinquent school lunch accounts, and a donation from the Shoals Methodist Church to be used for student needs. Lorna Troutman led the motion with Eva George making the second motion. Motions passed unanimously.

Sports physicals on April 3 with Daviess Martin Health Clinic and Preschool Registration for 2025-2026 on April 4th were approved. Ethan Jones led the motion with Annette Taylor making the second motion. Motions passed 5-0. Other events approved were the Pre-K Graduation on May 16 at 1:00 p.m., and the High School Graduation May 24th at 2:00 p.m. Eva George and Lorna Troutman led the motions to approve, passing 5-0.

The Leave Accounting for February was approved with Lorna Troutman and Eva George making the motions, passing unanimously.

March 13, 2025

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

Superintendent Hovis congratulated the high school robotics team on their state championship title. Jug Rox Robotix will represent Indiana at the World's competition in Houston, TX next month. She also congratulated all three BETA groups, who recently competed at the regional leadership summit in Gatlinburg, TN. All three teams advanced to nationals and one team received a perfect score from the judges. While in Gatlinburg, the groups enjoyed a dinner show at Dolly Parton's Stampede, a visit to the aquarium, and Ripley's museum. The students were complimented on their outstanding behavior. Our school received notice that we were a recipient for a cybersecurity grant, which will cover the cost of protecting our endpoint devices from being hacked. We have never received this grant before and are excited to get at least \$15,000, possibly more. Our drama club put on an impressive murder/mystery dinner show earlier this month. Shoals has several extremely talented students! If you go by the school, you might notice a brand new digital sign out front, which will be used to relay school events and information. This sign was made possible with assistance from Crane Credit Union and Martin County Community Foundation. On Wednesday, Ms. Hovis and several other female staff took close to twenty-five young ladies to the Young Women's Lead Conference in Jasper. This annual event for young women is full of leadership, education, and development activities. Ladies enjoyed listening to a motivational speaker, breakout sessions, and lunch. Jace Walton was thanked for his service as IT director and wished good luck at his job at Crane.

Superintendent Hovis also thanked Mary Ellen Baker for coming out of retirement to fill an open special education position, which is hard to fill. A shoutout was given to school counselor, Kallie Fuhrman. Kallie has hit the ground running in her new position and often goes above and beyond. She genuinely cares about the wellbeing of the students and ensuring that they are on track to graduate. Ms. Hovis closed by providing information for upcoming events, which are as follows: Spring break the week of March 17th, the band traveling to Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg during Spring break week to perform, prom on March 29th, freshmen orientation on April 3rd, and the third flex-waiver day, which will be on April 7th.

At the end of the meeting patron Jeff Jones addressed the board with concerns regarding the baseball field. The athletic department was aware of the situation and are looking into the best way to correct it.

Thank you cards from Tammy Cooper for the recent donation from the Elementary staff, from Cecil and Dianna Ragsdale and Audrey and Chad Gibson for the wind chimes received due to the recent death of Delores Ragsdale.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6 p.m.