

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

May 22, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board was called to order at 6:15 p.m. on May 22, 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 Principal Bryson Abel, Corporation Secretary Darla Holt, teachers Myrna Greene, Tina Sullivan, Jonathan Sullivan, and Montana Kocher. Community patrons in attendance were Etta Franklin, Emily Garcia, Regina Sue Lanham, Jennifer Boswell, and Chris Walker.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting from April 24, 2025 were motioned by Annette Taylor, seconded by Lorna Troutman. The minutes were approved unanimously.

There were no comments from patrons regarding items on the agenda.

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson began her report on recent events. Our first graders took a walk (or a ride!) on the wild side during their field trip to Wilstem Ranch Safari! Students explored animal habitats, learned fun facts, and had an unforgettable adventure. We celebrated our amazing teachers with a full week of appreciation—including catered lunches and daily drawings to recognize the hard work and heart they pour into our students every day. Mrs. Guinn hosted our always-popular Elementary Book Fair, giving students the chance to shop for exciting new reads! A portion of the proceeds supported our school library.

Thank you to Sherri Braun, Etta Franklin and Mary Beth and Katie Brett who volunteered their time to help. Ms. Greene partnered with Mrs. Guinn for a Title I Family Literacy Night during the Book Fair. Families enjoyed extended library hours, reading together, and choosing new books for summer reading adventures.

On May 8th, we welcomed the Indiana Department of Education STEM Certification Team for their final walk-through. Teachers, students, and our STEM Leadership Team shared how STEM is woven into daily learning here at Shoals. Our final report was to come on Friday, May 23rd. The 5th graders were celebrated with a special graduation ceremony, family picnic, and day of fun. 52 students and their families joined us to mark this exciting milestone. Ms. Hickman and our Elementary Music students delighted

families with a variety of performances during the Spring Music Program. A big “thank you” goes out to everyone who helped set up and showed up to support our young musicians!

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Our youngest learners are growing up fast! We celebrated 17 Shoals Early ROX Preschool graduates this year. From Field Day to PBIS Inflatables, Foam Parties, Guest Speakers, and our fun Countdown to Summer, the last days of school were packed with joy and celebration.

Ms. Christin Johnson brought energy and creativity to our 2nd-grade classroom and then stepped into the role of STEM teacher and Elementary Fabrication Coordinator. She designed Project-Based Learning opportunities and built strong community connections.

She'll be joining ROI to support STEM and workforce development across the region.

Best of luck, Ms. Johnson! We can't wait to work with you again! A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Braun for her years of dedication as a Title I aide. From helping struggling readers to covering recess and offering words of encouragement—her presence will be deeply missed.

Congratulations on your retirement, Mrs. Braun! Here's to a wonderful school year—and an even brighter one ahead! Thank you for your continued support of Shoals Elementary. Mrs. Gibson wished all of our students, staff, and families a safe, sunny, and fun-filled summer break! She closed with a reminder that Summer Camp Will Begin on Tuesday, May 27th 8:30-11:30. If you have not signed up, feel free to call the office 812-247-2085 or just show up and we will register you that day.

Middle School Principal Bryson Abel began his report by stating that ILearn testing is completed. The Middle School Awards ceremony went well. Mr. Abel thanked his staff and others in the corporation for helping when needed and making coming to work an enjoyment! He also thanked the school for their past and present support. He asked that everyone keep Clara Arnold in their thoughts as she was recently involved in a serious car accident.

The first item under new business was the approval of the following: Nick Gerkin as volunteer assistant for Middle School Soccer, Brayden Perry and Logan Wagler both as volunteer boys' basketball assistants, Marey Ellen Baker to serve as Sp Ed Resource teacher for grades 9-12, effective for the 2025-26 school year, Steve Engleman as substitute custodian, Matthew Poole as lead IT and the following for summer crew: Steve Engleman, Saben Holt, Reva Troutman, Karen Ray, Kyle Wininger, Mason Baugh, and Amanda Wilson. Ethan Jones and Annette Troutman led the motions to approve which passed unanimously. Also approved were the internal transfers of Amy Money as Food Service Director, Jill Jones as the Attendance Officer and Administrative Assistant, and Molly Tharp as Middle School Administrative Assistant and PBIS Coordinator. Eva George and Lorna Troutman led the motions to approve which passed with a 5-0 vote. The resignation of Megan Benefiel was accepted with a 5-0 vote. Ethan Jones and Annette Taylor led the motions.

Additional personnel changes approved for the 2025-2026 school year were Bryson Abel as AD/PE teacher/Assistant Disciplinarian for grades 6-12, Jonathan Sullivan as 3rd grade teacher, Tina Sullivan and Amanda Fischer as 1st grade teachers, Lindsey Douglas as 4th grade teacher, Ashton Berry as Kindergarten teacher, Madeline Riley and Molley Parsley as Preschool 4's teachers, Ruby Harder as Preschool 3's teacher, Aimee Harder as 6th grade teacher, Melanie Hawkins as K-6 STEM teacher, and Olivia Stoll as Kindergarten teacher. Lorna Troutman and Eva George made motions to approve which passed unanimously. The resignations of Sherry Braun, Christin

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Johnson, and Clara Arnold were approved with a 5-0 vote. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones led the motions.

The following trip requests were approved with a 5-0 vote. Boys and girls High school basketball teams to Bloomington for summer games, Varsity sports to Bloomington tourney games during the summer, Winter Guard to a Spin Clinic, and the Senior Beta Club to Orlando, Florida for the National Beta Convention. Lorna Troutman led the motion to approve with Eva George making the second motion. Motions passed 5-0.

The following LCVC dates were approved unanimously with Eva George and Annette Taylor making the motions: October 26-Parent meeting, November 9-March 29 for tryouts and practices and a President's Day tournament February 15, 2026.

MOU Agreements between Shoals Community Schools and North Lawrence Career Center for 2025-2026 school year, and between Shoals Community Schools and Hoosier Uplands Head Start for the 202-2026 school year were both approved unanimously. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions to approve.

The 1003 Flex-waiver application was approved with Lorna Troutman and Ethan Jones making the motions to approve which passed unanimously.

Shoals Summer League softball field usage request for the Catfish Classic Baseball Tournament was approved with Annette Taylor and Eva George making the motions, passing 5-0.

New Courses and Pathways for the 2025-26 school year were approved unanimously with Eva George and Ethan Jones making the motions to approve. Those courses are World History Civilization, Computing Foundations for a Digital Age, Creative Writing & Speech, History of Jazz & Rock & Roll, Developmental Psychology, BLS/Dementia, Principles of Early Childhood Education, Shielding Metal Arc Welding, Ag Power, and Ag Structure. New Pathways are Early Childhood Education, and Welding Technology.

Approval to move forward with an investment for facility improvements and CTE expansion was granted with Ethan Jones and Annette Taylor leading the motions, passing 5-0.

The Leave Accounting for April was approved with Lorna Troutman and Annette Taylor making the motions, passing unanimously.

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

Superintendent Hovis began by telling the public that we have an exciting opportunity to improve our facilities and expand our Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs through our next bond issuance. A school bond allows schools to fund large-scale projects, like new construction or renovations, by borrowing money by selling bonds. These bonds are repaid over a period of time, which is an advantage to taxpayers. The school's last bond was in the amount of 3.4 million dollars and was used to replace roofs, HVAC units, ceiling tiles, and lights. We can increase this amount by an additional six million dollars, bringing the total amount to 9.4 million. We recently had a feasibility study conducted, which gave us a better idea of what our school needs. With this bond,

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we would love to improve our school safety by reconfiguring spaces to require all visitors to check in before entering any student areas and by enhancing secure entrances.

As you know, we recently introduced a welding pathway, which was a massive hit for our students. It is so large that we have students on a waiting list, and students from other schools want to attend Shoals for this particular pathway. However, we are very limited on space, which is why we have students on a waiting list. We would love to expand this area so that we can continue to offer this high-demand pathway in the future. We also would like to revamp our culinary kitchen as it is outdated, and we are unable to use the new, modern equipment that was purchased two years ago with a grant. The more high-value CTE courses that we are able to offer, the more funding we receive from the state. Other areas we would like to focus on are making the multi-purpose room functional again for an elementary gymnasium space, and renovating our restrooms to improve accessibility so that we comply with ADA. This week's paper contains a letter with more details regarding this bond.

Ms. Hovis congratulated the forty-seven seniors graduating in the Class of 2025. She stated that this class is a very high-achieving class, with several students earning honors. Speaking of the seniors, she was proud to have heard how well they behaved last Friday at their senior outing to Evansville. They were complimented on their polite and respectful behavior during their visit to a restaurant. Superintendent Hovis stated that several new laws are being passed that go into effect on July 1st. The school board, Ms. Hovis, and Dr. Lanham attended the ISBA conference this past Monday in Jasper to learn about the new legislation that is going into effect soon. Ms. Hovis and Dr. Lanham have been working collaboratively for some time, and she is excited to see what the future holds for Shoals with the new administrative team in place. She thanked Mr. Bryson Abel for stepping into the principal role when needed and commended him on his ability to build a team with his staff. She also thanked the bus drivers for getting the students safely to and from school this past school year. School is officially out for summer break, and she wishes everyone a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer. Summer school is in session until Friday, June 6th, from 8:30-11:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 6 p.m.