

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

**REGULAR SESSION
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**7900 HWY 50
SHOALS, INDIANA 47581**

September 11, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. on September 11, 2025. President Drexel Turpin, Vice-President Eva George, Secretary Annette Taylor, and Members Lorna Troutman and Ethan Jones were in attendance. Staff in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Sue Lanham, HS Principal Kindra Hovis, MS Principal Carol Eubank, Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson, teachers Kari Goodman and Traci LeTourneau, and Corporation Secretary Darla Holt. Community patrons in attendance were Jeff Jones, Stephen Deckard, Audra Deckard, Renee Allbright, and Sandi Chavez.

Lorna Troutman motioned for the approval of the Minutes of the Regular meeting from August 14, 2025, seconded by Annette Taylor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Drexel Turpin and Superintendent Lanham next presented the Additional Bond Appropriation Hearing. After giving a brief description of the process, the floor was opened for comments. There were no comments from patrons. Eva George and Lorna Troutman led the motions to adopt the Additional Appropriation Resolution. The vote to accept was 5-0. They then presented the Final Bond Resolution. Lorna Troutman and Eva George led the motions to approve the Final Bond Resolution, which passed with a 5-0 vote. Dr. Lanham and President Turpin then presented the Amended and Restated Post Issuance Compliance Procedures. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve this resolution, which also passed unanimously. Mr. Turpin then proceeded to recommend that the maximum amount of the bond issue be \$1,000,000. Annette Taylor and Lorna Troutman made the motions to accept the recommendation.. Motions passed 5-0.

The board then held a public hearing regarding the 2026 Budget, where Dr. Lanham explained various items regarding the budget. The 2026 budget will be finalized at the October board meeting. There were no comments from patrons.

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

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson reported that the teachers and students are settling into the new school year and adjusting to our new reading curriculum, Amplify. This program emphasizes the science of reading and the development of critical ELA skills for our young learners.

All beginning-of-year assessments have been completed. In the coming weeks, teachers will conduct a thorough data analysis to examine the results and determine how best to support and challenge every student.

Dr. Renee Childress and the RTI (*Response to Intervention*) team have begun meeting three times a week during scheduled RTI time. Teachers with student academic concerns complete an RTI form, and the team collaborates with the homeroom teacher to develop an appropriate plan of action. Elementary after-school tutoring will begin next week. Elementary midterms were sent home last Friday. Faculty and staff participated in on-campus professional development yesterday—a special thank-you to Dr. Lanham and Dr. Dykstra for leading these sessions. Mrs. Gibson expressed gratitude to Mrs. Rollins and Ms. Bratton for organizing a coin war and soup dinner in support of a 5th-grade student, who has recently been diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma.

Principal Gibson shared upcoming events for the elementary school. There is a Fall Field Day scheduled for October 3. School will have a 2-hour delay on October 8, and Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on October 9. Fall Break will follow, being the week of October 13-17.

Middle School principal, Carol Eubank, gave a huge shout-out to Molly Tharp for all she does in the middle school office. She has been a tremendous resource, helping to explain the school's traditions, what works well, and what needs revision. She has also been an excellent team player, assisting the athletic department in organizing student physicals, creating rosters, and taking pictures. Molly has also been helping the central office when needed and has agreed to attend a Skyward Corporation training, so she can return and teach the rest of us about current features and significant updates.

Mrs. Eubank also expressed appreciation for Kelley Wellman-Covey for all she has done to help establish a routine SEL schedule and appropriate material, for always being willing to assist her in the office with difficult student conversations, and her willingness to chip in and help in whatever capacity is requested!

Mrs. Overton took a few 8th-grade students on her Ag/FFA field trip to see the Antique Show. 6th grade will be attending the STEM Open House at Crane on Thursday, September 18. The 8th grade will be attending the Martin County Alliance's Manufacturing Day on Friday, September 19. Mrs. Eubank expressed appreciation to the Shoals Middle School teaching staff for helping our first 2 Hour delay schedule of events go smoothly. That morning, a short documentary about bullying and teachers was watched, which led to some great classroom discussions about how we see the issue at Shoals. A "Genius Hour" was held to educate middle school students about bullying and how to prevent it at SMS. Each homeroom class will create its own anti-bullying presentations/campaigns to share with a special panel of judges on October 8. The winning presentations will be shared on our TVs/announcements during Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 27-31. That afternoon, we hosted our first PBIS celebration for all middle school students who had earned points for their regular attendance, passing grades, and few discipline referrals. Less than 20 students missed out on our field day, where we hosted various class competitions, including human rock-paper-scissors, tic-tac-toe with cornhole bags and buckets, beach towel volleyball, a hula hoop challenge, and a human knot challenge. The kids also enjoyed popsicles and had a great day in the sun!

High School Principal Kindra Hovis reported that it has been a great month in the high school building. Food Truck Friday is a big event, as culinary students put their entrepreneur hats on for the day. They designed a food truck, developed a recipe, made samples of their product, and advertised and served their products to students and staff, who then voted for their favorite. Larson Bair-Sterling and Athena Smith won the best food trucks. This activity was in preparation for the annual Food Truck Friday event in Bloomington, where students attend a presentation to learn the steps of owning a business.

All schools are gearing up for College Go Week, which is the week of September 22. Members of the SLT team and the early college students have worked hard preparing activities for each day, culminating in a school-wide event on that Friday.

Principal Hovis recognized Molly Tharp, the new PBIS coordinator, for organizing a fun-filled day for the entire school. Students and staff took part in some fun competitions outside. Monthly rewards are planned, versus waiting until the end of the year, to keep students excited about our PBIS program.

The high school attendance challenge is working very well. Whichever class has the best attendance each week gets to go to lunch five minutes early every day the following week. Since school began, our overall attendance in the high school is at 95%. Our attendance has been an area that needs improvement.

Shoals Shop students and instructors presented last Thursday at the Daviess County Farm Fair. They invite the Jug Rox Farm to present to all 4th graders each year, which is roughly 400 students.

Ms. Hovis closed with an introduction of Mr. Eli Burkhart, our new Athletic Director, who has hit the ground running in our athletic department. He has helped wherever it was needed. Ms. Hovis has received several compliments from parents and staff on his positive attitude. Speaking of athletics, our varsity volleyball team is having a great season. They currently stand at 14-2 and have won both tournaments in which they have participated. Our cross-country high school students are also doing well. Congratulations to Eli Wittmer for placing thirteenth and receiving a ribbon last week at a meet in Loogootee. There are often up to 100+ runners competing in these meets.

The first item under new business was the approval of the following coaches: Basketball: Kyle Turpin as Girls' Varsity coach. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve, which passed 4-0-1, with Drexel Turpin abstaining. Sam Perry was approved as Girls' Varsity assistant coach, Lorna Troutman led the motion to approve, with Ethan Jones making the second. Motions passed 5-0. The following were approved as volunteer coaches: Mike Fischer, Heidi Hoffman, Travis Brett, and Ava Perry, all for Girls' basketball, Andy Purdue as Girls coach, middle school and elementary, Logan Wagler as Boys' varsity assistant coach, Sam Perry as JV Boys' coach, Brayden Perry as C Team coach and High School volunteer assistant coach, Rylan Perry as Boys' 8th grade coach, Bryson Schoulz as Boys' 7th Grade coach, Cody Douglas as Boys' 6th grade, and Chad Cundiff as Boy's volunteer coach. Malachi McNabb and Cyrus Ellis as Volunteer boys' soccer coaches, Gianna Floyd as Girls' volunteer soccer coach. Raysha Wininger was approved as High School Cheer coach and High School Dance Coach, Allison Taylor and Amy Money as volunteer Cross Country coaches, and Isabella Newland as JV Cross Country coach. Ethan Jones and Eva George led the motion to approve the coaches, which passed unanimously.

The following were approved: Eli Burkhart as Athletic Director and Varsity Boys' Baseball Coach, Rylee Bauer as CTE intern in business, Kassie Brassien as Elementary Special Education Aide, Jennifer Bridges, and SonBlossom Summerton as substitute teachers. Annette Taylor and Eva George led the motions to approve, passing 5-0. Courtney Taylor was approved as an Elementary Special Ed Aide. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman made the motions to approve, passing 4-0-0 with Annette Taylor abstaining. Additional personnel approved were Josh Harmon as substitute SRO, Kanitta "Ann" Sodachan in the cafeteria pending the finalization of paperwork with a positive outcome, Kallie Fuhrman as substitute custodian for cleaning gyms after ballgames, and various staff members to tutor students after school for I-Read. Daniel Turpen as the interim head soccer coach. Lorna Troutman made the first motion, with Eva George making the second motion to approve, which passed unanimously.

The resignations of Darcy Soke from Preschool assistant and Deanna Hert from the cafeteria were approved. Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve, which passed unanimously. Cassie Phillips was approved as the Middle School student council Sponsor with a 5-0 vote. Lorna Troutman and Annette Taylor led the motions to approve.

The following fundraisers were approved: Senior Beta to sell discount cards, November 2025-March 2026. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve passing with a 5-0 vote. A donation soup summer was approved, with proceeds going to a staff member's family.

There were several trip requests approved, with Eva George and Lorna Troutman leading the motions, passing unanimously. They were Freshman to Martin County Health office, Mrs. Goodman's class to Cornerstone Community Church to help at a Food Pantry, JugRox Robotix to Hindostan Falls to accept an MCCF Grant check and to Vincennes University for the FIRST Forums, Juniors and Seniors to the Lawrence County Fairgrounds for the Stonegate Skilled Trades Showcase, Business and Culinary students to Bloomington for Food Truck Friday, 3rd grade to Lark Ranch and the Loogootee Park, Junior Beta to Evansville for the Indiana Junior Beta Convention, Grades 7-12 Drama Club to the Bloomington AMC Theater to see Wicked-Part 2, Grades 9-12 for SHS College Visit Day and Senior Statehouse Trip, and high school Engineering students to Crane Westgate for a Design Challenge. Additional field trips approved were Grades 9-11 to AHEC Health Expo Day at Mitchell High School, Shop students to Lincoln Tech, and Seniors to Vincennes University for college visits, Athletic Department to the IHSAA Fall District and Student Leadership meeting. Ethan Jones and Eva George led the motions to approve, passing with a 5-0 vote.

The Second Reading of the Middle School Student Handbook was held and approved, along with an Employee Corrective Action Document/Policy, and overtime pay for non-certified employees, provided their direct supervisor and superintendent have approved it. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions, passing 5-0.

Facility usage requests approved were to supply the facility for a girls' softball tournament in honor of an Elementary student, and the Athletic Department to use both gyms for the Fall Festival on October 25.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WGU was approved, with Annette Taylor and Ethan Jones making the motions to approve, passing 5-0. An Agreement and Mutual Release of Claims was approved with SiteLogiQ. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions to approve, passing unanimously.

Leave Accounting for August 2025 was approved with a 5-0 vote. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions. All claims were approved for payment. Lorna Troutman and Annette Taylor led the motions, which passed unanimously.

Superintendent Lanham began with a report from Curriculum Director Danielle Cornett. All sophomores and juniors will be participating in the PSAT student readiness check on September 25th and the actual PSAT on October 2nd. All students are rostered, and all accommodations are in place. Shout out to St Vincent de Paul for the monetary donation for snacks for our students taking the PSAT! Students (K-8) have completed the BOY testing on i-Ready. On Wednesday, during PD, Mrs. Cornett went through with the middle school staff a brief overview of how to examine the data. The ILEARN Checkpoint 1 window starts on September 15th and runs through November 14th. Teachers will administer the checkpoint in ELA and math after completing the standards in grades 3-8. New this year, families will be able to have family access to the family portal after completion of the ILEARN checkpoint one assessment and be able to see students' scores from the portal. ISPROUT & KRA testing is still ongoing and will be finished by October 3rd. Student Enrollment Numbers: PK-3: 13, PK-4: 16, K: 37, 1: 42, 2: 37, 3: 43, 4: 42, 5: 38, 6: 54, 7: 55, 8: 39, 9: 33, 10: 52, 11: 61, 12: 36. Total PK-12: 598 with a total K-12: 569.

Dr. Lanham began by thanking the board for supporting her throughout the first five weeks of school. She also expressed her appreciation to Darla Holt, Kendra Wright, and Kindra Hovis for making budget season go smoothly. She looks forward to our collaborative camaraderie as we all continue to grow as a team. Dr. Lanham shared that she had the opportunity to witness great work from our administrators, teachers, and staff members during this first month of school. She has enjoyed engaging with staff and students as she moves throughout the buildings. One of her favorite parts of the day is greeting students as they get off the bus or while they are eating breakfast. It's a great reminder that we are here to serve this wonderful group of students.

Last Wednesday, we held our first 2-hour delay Professional Development session. We had professional development for support staff in the early college room. This team worked with Dr. Dykstra, our director of special education. She collaborated with this group to develop strategies and support structures for engaging with students. Our faculty members started their day with their building-level principal for faculty meetings, then moved into the cafeteria, where I, along with a fantastic teacher professional, Paul Andrey, presented on trauma-informed care. The value Paul brought to the conversation altered the day's dynamics. I would like to thank the faculty members who participated and asked questions that benefited everyone in the room. A special thank you to Paul for his collaboration on this workshop. She also thanked the group of professionals who spent the first two hours of the day with our staff members' children. I'm sure they enjoyed that time.

Every other week, Mr. Kent, Ms. Hovis, and Dr. Lanham have been meeting with the FEMA architect and construction team. At the most recent update, the architect shared that we are still on track to complete the project by January. The team of contractors works collaboratively to ensure everything runs smoothly. We have all been waiting to see walls go up. The exterior of the structure was to begin this past Monday. These blocks have been custom-made for this project and have been curing for quite some time. Hopefully, by the end of this week, we will see quite a change in the look of the addition.

Superintendent Lanham closed by thanking the fall sports coaches. This group has been working with athletes for a minimum of five weeks, and we want them to know their hard work has not gone unnoticed. The late nights of practice, washing uniforms, making peanut butter sandwiches, filling coolers with drinks, and coaching on the sidelines EVERY SINGLE DAY. We look forward to continuing to cheer on your teams as the season progresses.

The meeting adjourned at 715 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 6 p.m.