

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

REGULAR SESSION

**HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
7900 HWY 50
SHOALS, INDIANA 47581**

January 9, 2026

6:00 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on January 9, 2026. 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 Sue Lanham, Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson, Middle School Principal Carol Eubank, High School Principal, Kindra Hovis, Curriculum Director Danielle Cornett, Staff Kari Goodman, Tiffany Wittmer, and Traci LeTourneau. Community patrons in attendance were Nikki Butler, Etta Franklin, and members of the RoxStars robotics team.

The RoxStars robotics team gave a presentation as they prepare to compete in the state championship in Indianapolis on Saturday, January 10th.

Eva George made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11th & 29th, 2025 meetings, seconded by Annette Taylor, passing unanimously.

There were no comments from patrons.

Audrey Gibson gave the following report on the elementary school:

We have officially kicked off the second semester and are off to a strong start at Shoals Elementary! Thank you to our Kindergarten Homecoming Court: Daniel Roush, Eli Hert, Hannah Overton, Rex Hoffman, and Ella Gibson. They did a fantastic job! Report cards were sent home this week. We are proud to celebrate many students in grades 3–5 who earned Honor Roll, High Honors, or showed improvement by raising a previous grade. ILEARN checkpoints have been completed as we continue to monitor student progress and growth. Students and teachers are currently completing the CogAT assessment, which helps us better understand student learning strengths and needs. After-school tutoring is available for Elementary Students. Teachers recently received virtual learning training from SIEC to prepare for possible inclement weather. Shoals Elementary has a clear plan in place, and students and staff have been familiarizing themselves with Google Classroom in the event virtual learning is needed. Chromebooks will be sent home on weekends or when winter weather is forecast to ensure continuity of learning. Our IT Department has ensured all elementary devices have secure settings and limited access appropriate for student use. Master scheduling and planning for the next school year have already begun. Committees are being formed to ensure collaborative decision-making focused on what best supports

students across all grade levels. Upcoming events are as follows: Grade-level hearing screenings: Tuesday, January 13; Mobile Dentist on campus: Tuesday, January 20; 100th Day of School Celebration: Thursday, January 22 🎉 Thank you to Julie Burns and State Farm for a matching donation to our Elementary School and Students. Teachers will participate in professional development on Wednesday, January 14th. Students will have a 2-hour delay that morning.

Carol Eubank gave the following report on the middle school:

Shout-outs were given to Mrs. Diane Turpin, Mr. Scott Carr, Ms. Brittney Bushey, and Mrs.

Kelley Wellman-Covey for taking on the challenge of designing and teaching a basic skills class for our behavior intervention students. Mrs. Wininger and Mrs. Esch for their willingness to revamp our 7th- and 8th-grade basic skills class to better meet our students' academic needs. Students were divided based on their academic literacy needs, and classes were modified to meet students where they are and help build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Mrs. Overton for designing and teaching our new enrichment class for students who are functioning at and above grade level. Students will start by creating a new media/marketing campaign to explain our high school pathways to 8th-grade students and their parents at freshman orientation. The following student programs were discussed: Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Harder are teaming up with Misty Newland at the Martin County Health Department this semester to teach our 6th and 7th grade health students about the dangers of vaping with their evidence-based program called Catch My Breath—this will be a 4-week program. In addition, Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Harder are also rolling out the Peace of Mind Program—a weekly curriculum to help our students learn to self-regulate, be kind, and solve conflicts skillfully. Mrs. Eubank stated, “It is my birthday month, so we will be celebrating the kids!” We will celebrate all middle school students who: **Donut miss! 24 students will be recognized for not missing a full day the entire first semester!** Shout out to NEVEAH STONE—she actually achieved PERFECT attendance—no tardies, no partial days, NO absences! At grade level or above OR showed progress between their beginning-of-the-year benchmark assessment and their middle-of-the-year benchmark assessment (see below). **63 Achieved A/B honor roll for first semester.** Participate in school clubs, activities, or athletics! **107 6, 7, and 8th grade students are actively participating in school activities**—like spell bowl, drama and winterguard, athletics—cross country, volleyball, soccer, basketball, cheerleading, and clubs—like student council, Robotics, and Beta. Next, she spoke about teacher accountability. We have not had another PD day since November; however, with the PD day coming up next week, Middle School teachers will be review our MOY I-Ready assessment data to see what has worked well so far, and where we go from here. To date our students have shown significant improvement. 6th grade 31/50 improved their math scores and 39/50 improved their reading scores! 7th grade 32/56 improved their math scores and 23/56 improved their reading scores! 8th grade 13/35 improved their math scores and 20/35 improved their reading scores! This month, we will be celebrating any student who is at or above grade level, and any student that has shown any improvement on math or reading! Upcoming events are: January 13: Hearing Screenings, January 14: 2 HR Delay for PD, January 20: Mobile Dentist, February 5: National Kindness Event, February 7: Robotics Tournament at Shoals, February 20: 8th grade Reality Store FT, and February 27: E-Learning Day for COSMOS PD.

Kindra Hovis gave the following report on the high school building:

Ms. Hovis welcomed everyone back to a new semester and offered congratulations to our robotics teams, as both advanced from semi-state to the state championship this Saturday in Indianapolis. Best wishes, RoxStars and RoboRox! Our coaches vs cancer game was a success, close to \$3,000 for the Mirabel Kidwell family. The homecoming dance that followed was also a success. Mrs. Fuhrman & Ms. Hovis chaperoned, and all students had a great time. They feasted on pizza, chips, cookies, and soda. and enjoyed music by DJ Charlie Rollins. It was a great start to winter break. Several positive notes from IHSAA officials were read regarding the new athletic director, Mr. Burkart. Congratulations to Junior, Trendon McGuire, who was selected to attend the Aviation Academy in Colorado. This is by invitation only, and only so many are selected to attend in the country. Students selected are required to have met certain academic criteria, and Trendon has met them. On Thursday, Mr. Kent & Ms. Hovis led a tour for the Washington Superintendent, principal, board members, parents, and the agriculture teacher of our school farm. They are interested in starting a farm modeled on the program started here at Shoals. An email was read from a Washington Community School Board member stating how impressed he was with the school farm and with how Mr. Kent leads and teaches his students. An invitation for Freshman Orientation and Senior Decision Day was given out. These are two big days for our students and families. Ms. Hovis thanked Megan Hawkins for all the behind-the-scenes and extra work she does to ensure events such as these are successful. Mrs. Fuhrman and Ms. Hovis will be attending the Indiana Work-Based Learning Conference at the end of this month to learn new concepts to build and grow partnerships between our school and local workforces. This is a big component of the new graduation requirements. There is also a new state accountability model, and Ms. Hovis will attend several webinars throughout January & February to learn more about it and how the indicators relate to our school.

Under new business, the following personnel items were discussed: Approval of Kayla Tedrow for an elementary teaching assistant position, approval of a new contract for Audrey Gibson, approval of Octavia Dickinson to serve as a volunteer for the Shoals Winter Guard, and approval of Nic Sango as evening custodian pending a positive outcome of paperwork. A motion was made by Eva George, seconded by Ethan Jones, passing 5-0.

The following fundraisers were approved: high school rockeetes to hold a dance clinic on January 16th, high school cheer to host a cheer clinic on February 7th, and ost prom parents to host a dodgeball tournament for MS & HS students on February 10th. Lorna Troutman motioned, seconded by Annette Taylor, passing 5-0.

The following trips were approved: JugRox Robotix to Jasper on January 2nd for a team-building event. FFA to the Indiana FFA Leadership Center in Martinsville, January 30th-February 1st. JugRox Robotix to West Lafayette on January 31st for a Robotics qualifying tournament, and FFA to the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, KY on February 12th. A motion was made by Ethan Jones, seconded by Eva George, passing 5-0.

The following bids were approved: S&R Mechanical to receive the job for the HVAC addition to an elementary classroom and Kent Jones to receive the FEMA job for the new track. Annette Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ethan Jones, passing 5-0.

Under miscellaneous, approval to purchase a software program for students to track their graduation pathways for \$9,375, which will be reimbursed by ROI. Eva George made a motion, seconded by Lorna Troutman, passing 5-0.

Ethan Jones made a motion to approve the use of bonds to pay the December 2025 invoice (\$112,763.25) for the new FEMA Safe-Room project. Eva seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

A second reading of the overnight trip guidelines was passed 5-0, with Lorna Troutman making the motion and Eva George seconding.

Annette Taylor made a motion to approve the cancellation of and check & electronic payments that were over two years old. Ethan Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Lorna Troutman made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar, option 3. Eva George seconded it, and it passed 5-0.

The following items, after 4:00 were approved:

Fundraisers - Beta club to hold a bingo food drive on January 29th in the school cafeteria with February 12th being the backup date in case of inclement weather. Class of 2026 to hold a last bash fundraiser selling various items from January 19th through February 20th. Ethan Jones made a motion, seconded by Annette Taylor, passing 5-0.

Approval for Jenell Hoffman to serve on the Shoals Public Library Board, January 1, 2026-December 31, 2029. A motion was made by Eva George, seconded by Lorna Troutman, passing 5-0.

The following personnel were approved: Rainelle Cushman as an elementary classroom aide pending a positive outcome of paperwork, approval to move Kendra Wright to a contracted salary, and approval of a pay increase for teaching assistants who provide self-care in the amount of \$1.50. Lorna Troutman made a motion to pass all the above, seconded by Eva George, and passed 4-0-1, with Annette Taylor abstaining from the last part.

The following trip requests were approved: 5th grade field to Westgate on January 23rd, and 8th grade to Mitchell High School February 20th for the 8th grade Reality Store. A motion was made by Ethan Jones, seconded by Lorna Troutman, passing 5-0.

An approval to continue exploring the possibility of offering a CDL program through COSMOS was led by Eva George, seconded by Ethan Jones, and passed 5-0.

Danielle Cornett gave an update on student testing data.

Dr. Lanham gave the following report:

As part of the Martin County Leadership team, Shoals will be hosting a food drive on January 23rd with all food going to the Senior Citizen Center. Dr. Lanham celebrated the fact that Shoals High School is one of the top finalists to receive a monetary award for its Early College program. She thanked the school board in recognition of National School Board Appreciation Month. She also wished the robotics team good luck as they travel to the state, and she finished by giving a financial presentation on the school's current financial status. She plans to give an update each month.

The following financial & other reports were approved: Elementary ECA, Jr/Sr High ECA, report of the corporation's investments, CPF report, appropriation report, monthly and annual report, and a nurse's report. A leave of accounting report for December of 2025 was motioned by Eva George, seconded by Ethan Jones, and passed unanimously.

Approval to pay claims was made by Lorna Troutman, seconded by Annette Taylor, and passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm.