

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

**REGULAR SESSION
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**7900 HWY 50
SHOALS, INDIANA 47581**

April 9, 2026

6:00 P.M.

Board Minutes

The Shoals School Board meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on April 9, 2026. President Drexel Turpin, Vice-President Eva George, and members Lorna Troutman and Ethan Jones were in attendance. Staff in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Sue Lanham, Principals Audrey Gibson and Kindra Hovis, Matthew Poole, Allison Taylor, Traci LeTourneau, Courtney Taylor, Myrna Greene, Kelley Wellman-Covey, and Corporation Secretary Darla Holt. Patrons in attendance were Seth Taylor, Dianna Ragsdale, and Etta Franklin.

Ethan Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting from March 12, 2026, seconded by Eva George. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Myrna Greene and Kelley Wellman-Covey gave a safety update presentation on the Suicide Prevention Protocol and the Threat Assessment and Response Protocol.

Lorna Troutman commented that compliments were received about how well-behaved our students were at the recent Crane Science Fair.

Courtney Taylor gave a presentation on her personal and professional view of the importance of the Whole Child Classroom.

Elementary Principal Audrey Gibson began her report by noting that Shoals Elementary School was recognized by Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education, and the Indiana Department of Education for achieving a 95% passing rate on the 2025 IREAD assessment.

Kindergarten students recently hosted a special event to invite dads, grandfathers, and other important adults in their lives. This event fostered strong school-family connections and created lasting memories.

I AM Assessment (Special Education) is currently underway for students with significant cognitive disabilities. These are tailored to meet individual student needs and measure growth. ILEARN Testing (Grades 3–5) Testing Window is April 13 – May 8, with our goal to Complete testing by the end of April, with the final week reserved for make-ups. Mrs. Gibson expressed her appreciation to teachers and instructional aides for their teamwork and organization.

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Upcoming events include STEM Family Night on April 14, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Thank you to Melanie Hawkins and our STEM students for organizing this engaging event, and our Drama Club presenting *The Little Mermaid*, with a school performance on April 16, and Public Performances: April 17–19. Special thanks to Mrs. Bailey and Shoals Drama students for their dedication and hard work.

Mrs. Gibson also shared how fortunate we are to have our Whole Child Classroom.

High School Principal Kindra Hovis began with recent SAT testing. Ms. Hovis had offered incentives to the Junior class, with 21 Juniors qualifying for our SAT incentive. They either exceeded both ELA & Math or one of the other on the SAT. Students voted on which activity to do, and Holiday World was chosen. HW offers school-day discounts, so students will get a ticket and a catered lunch at a low price. This will be covered by grant funds. Prom and post-prom went smoothly, and the decorations were gorgeous. The culinary students provided desserts for the meal. I was able to chaperone post-prom, and we received a compliment on how well-behaved our students were.

The March 31st lunch & learn was a huge success, with new businesses and organizations willing to take on interns, helping meet the new work-based learning graduation requirements. Both schools partnered to present information on the new WBL requirements and how the community can assist us in meeting them through internships and apprenticeships. Thank you to Megan Hawkins, Jessica Potts, Heather Hawkins, and Kallie Fuhrman for organizing this event.

Ms. Hovis recently assisted ROI with conducting practice interviews with three of our students who are seeking a position with Upskill. Upskill is an apprenticeship program that allows high school students the chance to earn a paycheck, gain career credentials, and take college courses. It usually opens the door to career opportunities. Two of our students will be interviewing for apprenticeships with contractors at Crane, and the other student will be interviewing for one at Spring Mill in the management department.

At the recent sports physicals, the athletic department saw a record number of students, with 171 physicals completed. Our health science CNA pathway students gained real-world experience by providing blood pressure checks at their station.

This past week has been full of positive, exciting events with the birth of our newest litter of piglets on Jug Rox Farm. Last Thursday, all K-12 students (and staff) enjoyed some friendly competition at our PBIS event, *The Amazing Race*. We ended the day with our talent show and got to watch several students showcase their talents, from singing and playing instruments to seeing some comedians (both students and staff). We were also notified yesterday that our school was selected as a CELL School Award recipient and will receive a \$1,500 gift toward our Early College program.

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A huge thank you to the Martin County Health Department for coming in once a week to teach the “Catch My Breath” program to our high school health students. This is an evidence-based, free youth vaping prevention program for grades 5-12.

Principal Hovis finished by stating that April and May are typically our busiest months in the high school, with testing season, graduation preparations, awards programs, and end-of-year events such as special track & field, senior decision day, early college week, career fairs, and field trips. We will begin ILEARN for Biology and AP testing in the next few weeks. She met with Jostens on Thursday to ensure everything was ordered for our diplomas and award ceremonies.

Middle School Principal Carol Eubank was not present due to a meeting in Indianapolis. Dr. Lanham presented her report by thanking Melanie Hawkins and Cassie Phillips for giving our middle school students an opportunity to participate in the Crane Science Fair. at Crane on April 2; Reva Troutman and Ashley Montgomery for giving our middle school students an opportunity to participate in Junior Beta. On April 7, 30 middle school students were inducted into Junior Beta; Molly Tharp for organizing the Amazing Race for our monthly PBIS reward day on April 8, and a huge thank you to all the middle school teachers who participated in the fun! She also thanked Megan Hawkins for organizing the talent show for our middle school and high school students. She also thanked Danielle Cornett for communicating testing schedules and deadlines to teachers! We are definitely in the Test **Season**. I-Learn Checkpoint 3 testing window closes this Friday, April 10th. The End-of-Year I-Ready benchmark testing window opened on April 1 and will remain open until the end of this month. Finally, the ILearn Summative Assessment window will open Monday, April 13, and close Friday, May 8.

Last Wednesday, our teachers participated in professional development. Mrs. Eubank shared an article from Ball State University titled “A ‘Value-Added’ Measure of School Performance” a couple of days before our meeting, so we could discuss the article findings and what may contribute to the results of that finding: The study attempts to more accurately assess the quality of Indiana public schools by applying an adjusted performance measure (or Value-Added Measure) that takes into account community poverty and demographic factors. The study goes on to present the percentage of our actual average proficiency scorers on the I-Learn Assessment and then shares the predicted proficiency when we take into account the value-added measures (community poverty and demographics). The “Value Added” score reported by the study is the difference between the actual and predicted scores. Schools are then ranked in one of five quintiles (categories). Schools scoring a 1 have actual ILearn proficiency averages that exceed the predicted measure between 7-31%. Schools that score a 5 have actual ILearn proficiency averages that fall short of the predicted measure from 8 to 27%. The report reveals that, based on the 2025 8th-grade ILearn ELA/Math Proficiency, Shoals scored in the 5th quintile. Our Actual Proficiency Average was only 19.4%, while our Predicted Proficiency should have been closer to 42%. That is a negative difference of 22.8%, placing Shoals in the bottom 3 in the state. An alarming comparison is that Crawford County Schools (frequently identified as having the highest poverty rate in Indiana) scored in the first quintile. Their school exceeded the predicted measure by 31.5% (45.2% actually

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met proficiency on the Ilearn, but given their circumstances, only 13.7 were predicted to pass. Our team had a great discussion on what may have led to the serious discrepancy and what we could do going forward. Our Professional Development was about changing the culture of our school and community to adopt a growth mindset.

The first item under new business was the approval of Personnel to receive a stipend for their participation on the Early College Leadership Team: Tina Rue, Ben Kent, Kallie Fuhrman, Myrna Greene, Megan Hawkins, Kindra Hovis, Danielle Cornett, Carol Eubank, and Tim Bauer, who is with Vincennes University. Also approved was the maternity leave for Brittney Bushey in the Fall of 2026. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve, passing 4-0. Additional personnel approvals were for Kari Goodman to teach High School summer school and the approval of the following athletic positions for the 2026-2027 school year: Cody Douglas as Varsity Soccer Head coach, Taylor Atkison as Varsity Volleyball Head coach, Misty Smith as 8th-grade head Volleyball coach pending a positive outcome of paperwork, and Reva Troutman as Girls Varsity Soccer coach, Jeff Jones to upkeep the softball and baseball fields as a volunteer, and Jace Erwin as a High School Baseball volunteer for this Spring. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions to approve, which passed 4-0.

Field trips approved were: the High School Culinary class to the Martin County senior Citizens, and Mrs. Goodman's Juniors and Seniors to Mitchell for the COSMOS Career Fair. Lorna Troutman made the first motion to approve, with Eva George making the second. Motions passed with a 4-0 vote. Additional trips approved were for the High School Rox Catering/Culinary to St. John's Center in Loogootee to participate in the Martin County Economic Alliance's Lunch & Bingo leadership group, the Special Ed classes to Mitchell for the COSMOS Special Track & Field Day, and Mrs. Goodman's class, grades 6-12, to Holiday World for the Easter Seals Day of Play. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions to approve, passing unanimously. Trips for the Juniors to the Mitchell COSMOS Career Fair and Student Media & Publication class to VU to research Broadcasting career opportunities, and Jug Rox Make a Difference Day. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve, which passed unanimously.

The following policies were approved: Suicide Prevention, Threat Assessment and Response Protocol, and the Preschool Updates. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions to approve passing with a 4-0 vote.

Upcoming events and facility usages were approved: Beta Club to host a blood drive in the Auxiliary Gym next Fall, and for Mr. Scott Fishback to teach Driver's Ed courses through Road Star Driving School this summer at our school. Lorna Troutman led the motion to approve, with Eva George seconding. Motions passed 4-0.

Donation of gypsum dust to line our ball fields from US Gypsum was approved unanimously, with Lorna Troutman read a commendation from Amy Money, Cafeteria Director, for the maintenance staff. They were extremely helpful during our recent power outage, helping to preserve food so that it did not go to waste.

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Summer school was approved with a 4-0 vote. Motions were led by Eva George and Lorna Troutman. Tentative summer school dates are May 26-June 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with breakfast and lunch provided.

Courses for the 2026-2027 were approved unanimously, with Eva George and Ethan Jones making the motions. The following high school classes will be available to 8th graders: Health/PE, Spanish 1 (with certain qualifications), and Project-Based Learning, which is for students at or above proficiency. The following CTE classes will offer high school credit and be open to 8th-grade students: Engineering Essentials and Intro to Construction. Intro to Health Careers, Intro to Business, and Intro to Ag. The following new courses will be offered at the high school level: Child Development (elective class only), Gas Welding Processes (3rd class of the welding pathway), Abnormal Psychology (needed for an Associate's Degree), Computing Foundations for a Digital Age, and Topics in Computer Science

The Shelter Operation Plan was tabled, and the first reading of the 2025-2026 McKinney-Vento Plan was held.

Superintendent Lanham began her report by sharing the monthly financial update, emphasizing the importance of consistent budget reviews to monitor how the district's resources are being used and to plan for the future. She noted that changes in enrollment, state funding, and rising costs are already impacting the budget. Regular review of these factors allows the board and administrative team to respond proactively and stay ahead of potential challenges. The overall goal is to ensure that district spending aligns with priorities, supports student needs, and promotes long-term financial stability.

March Leave Accounting was approved with a 4-0 vote. Eva George and Ethan Jones led the motions. Approval to pay Claims passed with a 4-0 vote. Ethan Jones and Lorna Troutman led the motions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next regular public meeting will be on May 14, 2026, at 6 p.m.