Gustavus Advisory School Board

Regular Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026
5:30pm

(APPROVED)

CALL TO ORDER: 5:35 pm

ROLE CALL:

- Board members: Molly Kelly, Liesl Barker, Deja Jarvis, Lizz Durco

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:

- None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- Durco made 1st motion, Jarvis made 2nd motion. Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:

- Kelly made 1st motion, Jarvis made 2nd motion. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Barker was approached by a community member who has made substantial donations to the school fund in the past. She would like to see the school be more supportive of art themed opportunities. One example being Sitka Fine Arts Camp. Barker would like the ASB to pursue making a policy to determine if line items in the school fund can be put back into the general fund if they have been unused after a certain amount of time.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

REPORTS:

- Administrative Report:

  The school year is off to a busy start, and students and staff are settling into their routines. Overall, things are going well. We are beginning to see an increase in tardiness and some behavior concerns, so we are reminding students and families about attendance, being on time to class, following the expectations outlined in our Student/Parent Handbook.

  Fall OASIS count period is September 28-October 23, 2026 which is a 20 day count that will track our average daily attendance. Principal McSpadden has sent home letters to parents explaining why this count is important and what it means for school funding.

  Fall MAP testing will take place September 29 and 30 for students in grades 3-9. The results give our teachers important information about student growth and help us determine where students may need additional support or academic challenge.

  Student Council is getting underway with elections taking place last week. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 23. We are looking forward to having our student leaders involved in activities and school events throughout the year.

  Volleyball has started, and we are excited to have our students back on the court. There are six teams in our conference this season, which should provide our athletes with a good season of competition and opportunities to represent Gustavus School.

  We continue to have learning opportunities for our students. Several students are participating in a CTE intensive in Klawock which is being funded by SeaAlaska Heritage, it is a great opportunity for our students. The hydroponics program is starting up again and Ryan Smith will be out the week of October 11-14. Our goal is to make hydroponics a school-wide sustainability, and career education.

  Our staff continues to work hard to meet the needs of students with a very full instructional schedule. Special education and related services, including speech and occupational therapy, are now underway as well.

  We are also continuing to address the roof in the MPR. The project engineer is onsite today, September 21, to inspect the structure. Scaffolding has been installed, and students

have been reminded to stay clear of the work area. Safety remains our priority while we determine the next steps for the repair.

As we move toward October, our focus continues to be student achievement, attendance, safety, positive behavior, and providing meaningful opportunities for our students. We appreciate the continued support of our families, staff, ASB, and the Gustavus community.

Karen McSpadden
Principal/Gustavus School

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

- The ASB would like a Student Council Representative to join October's meeting. Barker will continue to work with the Council on designing a plaque honoring Gustavus School graduates that have joined the military.

ITEMS FOR ADVISORY SCHOOL BOARD CONSIDERATION:

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Treasurer Report
   Jarvis reported that teachers have spent some of their allotment. The checking account balance is $44,676.17. The ASB was in agreement about moving the Whalefest allotment to the general fund once a policy has been established. Barker will ask the Student Council if they are interested in a possible senior trip or prom.

2. Staff Appreciation Funding for 2027
   Kelly made 1st motion, Jarvis made 2nd motion to approve $1,150 for staff appreciation annually. Following is a breakdown of how it will be used:

   - $700 Staff Appreciation in February
   - $150 Teacher Appreciation week in May
   - $50 to be used for random acts of kindness for an individual teacher each month

(every month excluding December and February we will choose a different teacher to show appreciation to)

Allotted amount approved by unanimous consent.

3. Community Breakfast 2026-2027 Update
   October - Fire Department
   November and December are still undecided. Possible options are NPS Law Enforcement and the Church. The city administrator has expressed interest in volunteering and would like every city department represented. Brian, Aramark manager, donated food toward the cause and is willing to contribute more in the future. ASB would like to send him a thank you card.

4. ASB elections Update
   Both Seat D (Molly Kelly) and Seat E (Deja Jarvis) are up for re-election (3 year terms)
   Seat C (1 year term) is still vacant

5. EFG Update
   No current changes. Stacey is still waiting for the District Financial office to file outdated tax paperwork in order to move forward.

6. ASB Fundraiser Update
   Breakfast burrito drive-thru fundraiser is scheduled for January 23, 2027

7. Student Council Leadership Conference
   Barker will discuss with Student Council members to see if anyone is interested in attending in November. There may be concern about the volleyball schedule conflicting. If they are in favor she will talk to Karen about submitting a fund request.

8. Discuss moving the October ASB meeting
   Approved by unanimous consent to move the next meeting from 10-19-26 to 10-26-26

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- None

DISCUSSION:

- None

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- EFG update
- Election results
- Community Breakfast
- Treasurer report
- Student Council leadership conference

NEXT MEETING:

- October 26, 2026

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Adjourned 6:27 pm