

Gustavus Advisory School Board

Regular Meeting
Monday, November 24th, 2025
5:30pm

(DRAFT)

CALL TO ORDER: 5:39 pm

ROLE CALL:

- Board members: Molly Kelly, Liesl Barker, Deja Jarvis, and Lizz Durco
- Principal Karen McSpadden

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:

- Student Body President, Colin Devenny

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- Jarvis made 1st motion, Kelly 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 shared a brief synopsis of information given from a community member

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

A. Administrative Report

November 24, 2025

Gustavus was pleased to host Volleyball Regionals last week November 17th-19th. Teams from Kake and SISD competed against the Gustavus Foxes. Congratulations Foxes for taking 2nd place! They will be travelling to Anchorage for the state tournament in early December. A big thank you to all parents and volunteers who helped feed the teams!

The Gustavus School will be hosting their winter program (Gustavus Winter Warm-up Night) on Wednesday December 10th. It will be a fun-filled evening of karaoke, hot chocolate, and treats. Karaoke sign-up sheets have been handed out to students, as well as sent via email to parents and posted at the Post Office. The Student Body will help with coordinating desserts.

Proposed fundraiser idea for the Gustavus School Fund - drive-thru dinner. Food would be prepped in the school kitchen and picked up in the school parking lot. Possible entrees would be tacos, chili, burgers, etc. We hope to have it some time toward the end of January/beginning of February.

Regards,

Karen McSpadden

Principal, Gustavus School

B. Presentation:

Colin Devenny, Student Body President, spoke about the AASB Youth Leadership Institute that he attended in Anchorage last week.

He enjoyed round-table discussions with people from other school districts (including Angoon), discussing how to make changes and sharing problem solving ideas. Specific problems that Colin addressed were limited budget for sports, and the need for new gym equipment.

He was able to meet some influential people, including Senator Murkowski, Miss Alaska, and Social Media motivational speaker, Derek Moore.

Colin's takeaway from the conference was that it showed him how to be a better leader for his fellow students. Key points he wants to emphasize are:

1. Students' voices need to be heard.
2. Schools need to cater more to the students.
3. Meet students where they are at in order to help them grow and develop.
4. Asking others for help is crucial.

Once concern Colin mentioned (not relating to the conference) was the suggestion that Dr. Beau be the Spanish teacher, rather than using the current online curriculum.

Colin would like to encourage other Student Body members to attend future conferences. It was extremely beneficial in many areas.

C. Treasurer Report:

Jarvis reported that the current Gustavus School Fund total is \$74,184.88.

The volleyball dessert auction was a success, the school raised close to \$1,000.

Barker made 1st motion to allow up to \$1,200 to be used to purchase 10 new basketballs, 1 new basketball rim, and 2 new basketball nets. Jarvis made 2nd motion. Barker then amended the motion to add 3-5 women's basketballs. The motion will now read: 10 new men's basketballs, up to 5 women's basketballs, 1 new basketball rim, and 2 new basketball nets. Jarvis made 2nd motion. Approved by unanimous consent.

ITEMS FOR ADVISORY SCHOOL BOARD CONSIDERATION:

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Currently nobody has expressed interest in filling the vacant ASB position. Will revisit the vacancy after the first of the year.
2. ASB members left the school at 5:50, headed to City Hall to present the EFG application. Returned from City Hall at 6:50.
3. ASB has discussed choosing 1 student request to work on for the rest of the year. The latest request by Colin Devenny, student body president, was for new basketballs, a rim, and nets. We approved the funding for this request, and we will discuss more possible requests in our January meeting. Possible dance or prom? Barker will mention the idea to Principal McSpadden to get student council's input.
4. ASB would like to show the staff appreciation in February by having personalized t-shirts and caricatures made, and by providing baked goods.
5. ASB would like to do a drive thru fundraiser at the end of January/start of February. We would like to serve breakfast burritos. There will be flyers w/QR code posted throughout town, and people will have the option to pre-order. We will also try to post it on the school's FB page and on Foxtales. More details to come at our next meeting in January.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- None

DISCUSSION:

- Barker discussed with CTE teacher Steve Ilg about more learning opportunities for the students. It is possible that we may have more Grant money available with the Grant that the school already has secured.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Staff Appreciation in February
- Update on breakfast burrito drive-thru fundraiser end of Jan./early Feb.
- Community breakfasts Feb.-May(Durco has Dec covered, working on Jan.)

NEXT MEETING:

- January 19, 2026

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Adjourned 8:53 pm