

Board of Director “Good-byes” June 2019

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to this amazing group of dedicated Board volunteers for sharing so much of their time and all their talents with us at Groton Community School! Our Board of Directors Members serve for a minimum of two years, and many even longer, to enrich the experiences of our children, families, and staff, and also to connect our school with the greater community. We will miss each and every one!

Shannon Baxevanis, Secretary

Since November 2016

As Board Secretary, Shannon always has words of wisdom to share, tracking our Board of Directors history through her detailed meeting minutes. She has the admirable ability to listen intently and write at once, eloquently capturing all the essential information in perpetuity. It is like the old adage of standing on one leg, chewing gum, rubbing your stomach, and more. In everything she does, Shannon is incredibly calm and positive, encouraging and warm. Staff are so appreciative of the thoughtful personal birthday cards that she coordinates from the Board. Thank you, Shannon for sharing GCS alumni Luca and Eleni with us, and we are so glad that Ellis will join us next year. You have been such a cheerleader for GCS all these years! We heard a rumor about a future Home Tour perhaps?!

Jen Burke, Parent Representative Co-Chair

Since May 2016

Jen has made such a warm, welcoming and positive first impression of GCS for so many new families! In her role as Parent Representative Co-Chair, she is a calm and caring connection between the Board of Directors and families throughout the school year, helping to involve them in the school and helping them to network with each other, as well. Jen is extremely organized and dependable, and a total self-starter. We will have big shoes to fill figuratively for the demanding job of finding Home Tour volunteers next year. Jen has literally stood on her head to fill the many, many spaces required – upwards of 60 volunteers. She has even volunteered the significant others of Board members, who gladly complied! As fellow educator, her opinion is especially valued, and she has a true appreciation for what GCS offers and understands what it takes to work with young children and families. Having first Miles, now Ryan and also her delightful family participate in GCS is awesome!

Dan Quinn, Building and Grounds Co-Chair

Since December 2016

We will miss “Dan the Man” on our Board of Directors very much! Dan has such a generous heart of gold and desire to be helpful. We appreciate his warm and gentle manner, and how much he values early childhood and the hard work that *teachers* do. His full-time family perspective is so valuable on the Board in their efforts to foster trust, caring and understanding to support families for the hard work that *families* do to raise children amidst very busy lives. Dan has been a good researcher and thinker for Building and Grounds planning. We have loved having Jayden at GCS and look forward to Camp - his warmth and smile lights up the room – and hope to see big guy, Connor, someday!

Jessica Snow, Treasurer
Since October 2017

Thank you so much, Jessica, for your knowledge and commitment to GCS and the Board of Directors. We so appreciated her willingness to take on the Treasurer role and honorably “hold the purse strings” for GCS, even though Parker had graduated from Kindergarten and moved on to Elementary School. Jessica began as a Member-at-Large on the Board, and ran with the important project to research our Groton Community School online presence on the web. We now are in touch with all the listings for GCS, to ensure their accuracy and represent GCS as the amazing school it truly is! Thank goodness for little siblings, so it’s not good-bye forever!

Heather Spinney-Laidlaw, Fundraising Co-Chair
Since May 2015

Heather is a *fierce* fundraiser! As she always says, she has “numbers to meet”! She has taken the role as Fundraising Co-Chair to new levels, and it will be difficult to find another *Home Tour Queen* to replace her. We were amazed at how Heather used her literary talents to write very clever Home Tour Poems to acknowledge the hard work of the BOD in hosting this important event for GCS in such a fun way. She puts the “fun” in “fundraising”! Heather began on the Board by applying her amazing organization and dedication as Building and Grounds Co-Chair. She generously gave her own time, as well as coordinating volunteers for our Fall Fix Up and Spring Spruce Up events. Thank you for painting safety lines on our parking lot, and especially for your “bunny patrol” fence mending. We loved having both Lauren and Ashton with us at GCS!

Trisha Winroth, Vice President
Since May 2016

This girl can! Whatever Trisha does, she takes on the role of organizer extraordinaire, and does everything “just so,” to perfection. For example, as Vice President, she has helped GCS to shine at our annual Grotonfest participation. Her Action Items keep Board members on their toes for their projects and goals. Trisha has also been a tremendous support to fundraising efforts, working on the Home Tour and organizing the Change Table, or helping to coordinate annual Classroom Photos. She is always up for holding the photographer’s baby, or anyone’s baby! She offered her professional knowledge and expertise as a Pharmacist, thoughtfully organizing clinics for flu shots and other immunizations as a helpful health perk for staff. We had to laugh each time she volunteered her husband for tasks as well, and he willingly accepted every time. Thank you, Scott, Nathan, and Trisha for everything you have done for GCS! While we will miss you all very much, we are so happy to still see you at Camp!