

Board of Director Good-byes 2022-2023

We would like to acknowledge the incredible dedication, hard work, knowledge and talents of these three amazing individuals who are ending their service on our Board of Directors. All three have graciously extended their time *well beyond* their children's time at GCS, and we are so grateful for each and every one of them! It is very hard to say good-bye to these long timers! Thank you for helping us to make GCS the best that it can be, Laura, Kelly and Colleen!

Laura Cummings, Vice President

Serving on the Board since March 2018

Laura came on to the Board as a Member-at-Large, and has shown such loyalty and love for GCS in all of her roles, which also included Vice President, President, and back again to Vice President to continue supporting the school. We are so happy to have had both of Laura's children - Harrison and Charlotte – at GCS, and so grateful to Laura for serving a full year after her youngest moved on to elementary school. Things that immediately come to mind when describing Laura are her positive personality, ever present beautiful smile, and her enthusiasm! She truly is a GCS cheerleader! Laura has been instrumental in many of the “ambassador” aspects of GCS, such as representing the school and early childhood at Grotonfest each fall, welcoming our GCS community to our Annual General Meetings each fall, and soliciting and on boarding new Board of Directors members to make them feel at home. Laura was involved with our Groton Community Home Tours and subsequent Community Tours, embracing the wider community for these fun and large-scale fundraisers. She always had very clever ideas for adding great items to our Chance Table. She is quite the salesperson, saying, “Do you want change?” when selling Chance tickets. And speaking of clever, Laura has been our “road sign master” throughout the years, with clever quotes and phrases of our GCS sign. She even made it a fun, family affair, enlisting the help of Harrison for ideas and her husband Joe for hanging it up! We will sincerely miss the Cummings/Walch Family!

Kelly Lopez, Member-at-Large

Serving on the Board since October 2019

Kelly is a jack of all trades – there is nothing that she cannot tackle! She is easy-going, calm, and humble, diligently working on a task to do or problem to solve. Kelly takes a project and runs with it on her own, swooping in, and before you know it, the task is quietly done! In her time at GCS, Kelly has been a Member-at-Large, Public Relations Chair, and Building and Grounds Co-Chair. She is also great with technology, and was very helpful with Board of Trustee Auctions and online presentations. We enjoyed the time that the whole Lopez family, including her children Anthony and Adelyn, and also her husband Anthony, have spent at GCS! Kelly Involved her husband in her work, especially with his chain saw - that he won at our one of our auctions! She had big shoes to fill after our we returned to our new building for the **Forward Motion Project**, and she has worked diligently tying many loose ends. Thank you for the all the tools, time, supplies trips, and B&G expertise that both Kelly and Anthony shared for numerous Fall Fix Ups, Spring Spruce Ups, and Playscape enhancements throughout the years. Most recently we have been enjoying our snazzy new GCS mailbox that Kelly installed! Thank you so much for EVERYTHING, Kelly!

Colleen Neff, Treasurer

Serving on the Board since May 2020

Colleen came on board immediately after enrolling her son, and *before he even began* class at GCS. Her passion for numbers and background made her the perfect candidate to jump into our Board of Directors Treasurer position. Colleen is efficient, timely, knowledgeable, and precise, with an eye for detail – in summary, all that anyone could ask for in a Treasurer. Beyond that, she is simply fun, with such an infectious laugh that you can't help but join in! It wasn't easy to begin her GCS role in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions - all those Zoom meetings! - but she jumped in and has fulfilled her role impressively, staying beyond her expected tenure so admirably! She has been very helpful in all of our GCS fundraisers, too, such as our Community Tours, Chance Tables and chance Calendar. Colleen is ever cheerful, positive, and professional in her interactions and work with our Trustees, Board and staff. The Trustees highly praised her work recently, and her commitment to attend their meetings on such a regular basis. Colleen is very giving to the staff, as well as to GCS in general. She has been a frequent contributor to our "Stock the Staff Room" collections so teachers have healthy snacks at hand! We can count on Colleen to make the effort to share all the good news posted on GCS social media. We are so glad that we had the opportunity to get to know Colleen, her son Theo in the Aqua and Big Rooms, and also her husband Mike at many Fall Fix Ups and Spring Spruce Ups. You make it very hard to say goodbye, Colleen!