

Groton Community School

Board of Directors

2024-2025



Jessica Barie **Building and Grounds Co-Chair**

Serving as a Director (2nd time!) since September 2022

Past GCS Parent

buildingandgrounds@grotoncommunityschool.org

I am so happy to be back for round 3 and starting a new adventure with GCS. I love GCS! The foundations given to my children through their time here has been essential in their academic and social lives. I want to give back and support the school so that it may give the same to more and more students. I am an avid baker and cook, and I like to challenge myself with new recipes and ingredients often, much to the pleasure of my family.



Brianna Borek **Public Relations Co-Chair**

Serving as a Director since September 2023

Current GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

I knew GCS was a special place from the moment we took our first tour and I could not be happier to have my son begin his education experience surrounded by such incredible teachers and a wonderful, nurturing environment. I wanted to join the Board to help support our school and the educators, staff, and students that make up this fantastic community, as well as meet new people! Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom for my two children, I was a high school biology and anatomy teacher. I love spending time with family and friends, especially at a great restaurant or the beach.



Otonye Braide-Moncoeur **Vice President**

Serving as a Director since November 2022

Current GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

I love the sense of community created at GCS and of course, the experience my son is having here. It has become very clear that the staff, teachers, Board of Directors, Trustees, volunteers and parents invest in making GCS an enriching environment where children can thrive, be inspired and make memories. Any opportunity to support the mission of this community is worthwhile. I am passionate about my faith, my role as a professor, and about my family (hubs and three littles). I also love to sing and to retreat to the mountains when time allows.

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Kaitlyn Brokaw **President**

Serving as a Director since November 2019

Current GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

Two of our children have attended GCS, with a third on deck. I continue to be impressed by the quality of education the students are receiving. I joined the Board of Directors to become more involved in the school and to help GCS continue to have a positive impact on the community through its ability to educate and instill community values in young children. I formerly worked as a family nurse practitioner and provided healthcare for patients of all ages. I've hit pause on my career and am currently a stay-at-home mom and volunteer in the community. In my free time, I enjoy creating art projects with my children, visiting family in Rhode Island and Maine, calligraphy, and gardening.



Jessica Clinton **Building and Grounds Co-Chair**

Serving as a Director since December 2024

Current GCS Parent

buildingandgrounds@grotoncommunityschool.org

I've been a GCS parent since early 2023 and it soon became apparent to me that GCS is a very special place and wonderful community that I wanted to be a part of by joining the Board of Directors. The playground is one of my favorite places at GCS, so I am thrilled to support Buildings and Grounds. When not at GCS or parenting my two littles, I am an engineering team lead in defense, and have a passion for STEM outreach and professional society involvement. I also love to garden, sew, and run.



Lindsay Guaraldi **Treasurer**

Serving as a Director since January 2022

Past GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

My daughter spent 2 fabulous years at GCS, where I learned how special and important the introduction to early education really is. I wanted to be more involved in my daughter's school experience and the more I learned about GCS the more I loved the mission and approach to early education. It truly is a community. I watched my daughter completely blossom in her time here. While she may be off to a new school, I still want to be a part of the GCS community and support the mission. When I am not at GCS, I love spending time with my family, traveling, or in the garden.

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Kristina Hepburn **Member-at-Large**

Serving as a Director since May 2025

Current GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

I am a proud alumna of GCS, my oldest son is now enrolled and someday my youngest son will attend as well. My mom and I participate in the Groton Home Tour as a loyal vendor. GCS has been a meaningful part of mine and my family's life—it's where my brothers, cousins, and both of my boys have gone/will go to school, and it was also my first real school experience. I'm looking forward to getting involved and giving back to this community. I am a manager and Senior Investment Consultant at AJ Gallagher. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family & friends, traveling, walking, watching movies and TV shows, and reading.



Linda Kosinski **GCS Director**

MA Leadership, BS Elementary Education, AA Early Childhood Education

With GCS since 1985

Non-voting GCS Trustee and Member of Board of Directors, Past GCS Parent

lkosinski@grotoncommunityschool.org

I have been with Groton Community School for 39 years and was in the classroom as the Kindergarten/Pre-Kindergarten Teacher prior to moving in the administrative role. I truly believe in the school's philosophy and embrace meeting the need for good early childhood programming being be available for families and young children. I appreciate the talent and caliber of GCS teaching staff, feel very privileged that my own children had the opportunity to attend GCS when they were young, and am so proud to be part of the GCS community. During my off time, I enjoy gardening, exercise and catching a Bruins game whenever possible.



Abbey Lambert **Public Relations Co-Chair**

Serving as a Director since April 2023

Current GCS Parent

publicrelations@grotoncommunityschool.org

We are so lucky to have found GCS! As a new family to Groton, we found such a welcoming community in GCS. Our son has thrived and we found out very quickly that we were part of something very special. Joining the Board has given me a chance to give back to this amazing place and help in any way I can towards its continued success. I have also found the friendships and support I've received in the community to be invaluable. In my free time I enjoy dabbling in art, learning about various topics like history and social justice, watching cheesy TV shows, and browsing antique and thrift stores.

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Justine Mannix **Board of Directors Secretary**

Serving as a Director since October 2022

Past GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

GCS is a special school I was lucky enough to attend (in the Purple Room) and was thrilled to see my daughter so happy as a student. The teachers and staff are the most dedicated, kind, and talented educators I have met in early childhood education. I became a board member to support the school and help welcome new families into our community. Outside of GCS, I work as a Commercial Insurance Underwriting Manager and live in Groton with my wonderful husband and kids. I love country music, dancing, and exploring local spots.



Kaitie Phinney **Fundraising Co-Chair**

Serving as A Director since December 2023

Current GCS parent

fundraising@grotoncommunityschool.org

I am so happy to be a part of the GCS community! It took a long time to find a school that was a good fit for my family, and my children are thriving here. I cannot say enough wonderful things about the Staff and Board of Directors. It is evident that everyone at GCS cares deeply about helping every child find the best versions of themselves. I joined the Board to be able to give back and to become a stronger part of the community and meet new people. Outside of GCS I work as an Operations Program Manager and Data Analyst. In my free time I love to cook and bake with my kids and visit family in Rhode Island and Martha's Vineyard.



Danielle Recco **Member-at-Large**

Serving as a Director since May 2025

Current GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

We became a GCS family in 2024. We've been excited to join the GCS community since we attended our first open house and got an immediate sense of the welcoming and nurturing school environment. I am eager to join the Board to support the school's ongoing success and to engage more with the whole school community. I am fortunate to be pausing a career to stay home with our two young sons. I love to cook, bake, garden, and practice yoga.

Groton Community School Board of Directors 2024-2025



Luella Simakauskas **Parent Representative Co-Chair**

Serving as A Director since April 2024

Current GCS parent

parentrepresentatives@grotoncommunityschool.org

We have been a GCS family since 2022. I have loved GCS since day one due to the exceptional teachers and high-quality early education experience our daughter has received. She has always felt like an important part of the community here, and I wanted to become a board member to continue supporting this community and to become more involved in the school. I work as an occupational therapist and I enjoy spending time outdoors and traveling with my husband and children.



Lisa Stafford **GCS Assistant Director**

MA Philosophy, BS Computer Science, Math & Philosophy, Bachelor's Equivalence ECE

With GCS since 1995

Non-voting GCS Trustee and Member of Board of Directors, Past GCS Parent

lstafford@grotoncommunityschool.org

I felt "at home" from my very first experience as a GCS parent in 1994, and I started teaching at GCS the following year. I am still working at the school where my daughter attended 2 years of Preschool and Kindergarten, and now my grandchildren attend! Groton Community School takes its middle name seriously, and I enjoy being a part of a dedicated, loyal, and caring community that continues to impact the lives of so many children and families! Outside of GCS, I enjoy walking, African drumming, and playing with grandchildren.



Melissa Sulprizio **Fundraising Co-Chair**

Serving as a Director since June 2023

Current GCS Parent

fundraising@grotoncommunityschool.org

I have so much appreciation for GCS. They made learning fun and engaging for all. It's been amazing to watch my oldest son develop and grow with the help of the GCS staff, and I'm looking forward to my youngest son experiencing the same over the coming years. I joined the Board of Directors because I truly want to give back to the school in any way that I can. I strongly support the mission of GCS and want to contribute to its ongoing success and development. I have a Master's Degree in Atmospheric Science, and outside of GCS I am a Senior Scientific Software Engineer within Harvard's Atmospheric Chemistry Modeling Group.

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Mai Tirella **Member-at-Large**

Serving as a Director since August 2023

Current GCS Parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

My daughter had a wonderful experience at GCS. It feels good to give back to an institution that my daughter cherished so much. I'm a mother of 2 beautiful daughters who recently started her own photography business and I'm loving it.



Catherine West **Board of Directors Member-at-Large**

Serving as a Director since September 2024

Current GCS parent

boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org

My affiliation with GCS began when we enrolled our son and daughter for the 2023-2024 school year. As I learned more about the school, I wanted to be part of the Board of Directors to contribute to the amazing work GCS does for students, families, and the community. I am an anti-discrimination attorney and an aspiring dance mom.

Samantha Wall **Parent Representative Co-Chair**

Serving as a Director since August 2024

Current GCS parent

parentrepresentatives@grotoncommunityschool.org

My daughter is having a wonderful experience in the Yellow Room - a perfect balance of learning, play and exploration. She has the opportunity to explore her interests, develop moral character, and build a strong sense of community. Being involved in my children's education is incredibly important to me. A strong partnership between parents and school is essential for creating a supportive and enriching learning environment. In order to do this, being on the board made sense. It allows me to help create a supportive environment where educators are recognized and valued. Outside of GCS, I work as an athletic trainer at a secondary school and enjoy spending time with my husband and two daughters. In my free time I love to bake, practice yoga and spend time outside.