

# Board of Director Goodbyes - June 2024

***Join us in thanking the following members of our community who are moving on to new adventures! We deeply appreciate all that they have done for our school!***

## **Laura Hankin - Building and Grounds Co-Chair**

Laura first joined the Board in January 2022, and she quickly became a Building and Grounds Co-Chair extraordinaire! Laura is knowledgeable, and completely unafraid to tackle big projects. She is organized, intelligent, and extremely hardworking! As B&G Co-Chair, Laura has helped to accomplish amazing things the past two years through annual Fall Fix Ups and Spring Spruce Ups! Laura even lent her Dad to help us build a shed patio and paint the playhouses. We are grateful to Laura and Co-Chair Jess Barie for writing a successful "Dig Deeper" environmental grant for our school. The addition of compost bins, rain barrels, garden tools, our new mud kitchen, and sandbox excavators has truly taken off with Laura's help! Her creative composting workshops for children and teachers inspired interest and inspired us to action. The children are enthusiastic about composting and caring for the earth! Even staff who were squeamish about composting have joined the effort at school, and some have at home, too! Laura's work on the grant and on our GCS Greenhouse were a natural extension of her incredible abilities as a gardener. We appreciate the hours of work that Laura, Jess and their families devoted to rebuilding the Greenhouse after our *Forward Motion* expansion project. It was through Laura's composting workshops and classroom garden activities that we discovered her terrific teacher talents, and we were delighted to welcome her as a Substitute Teacher, where her interactions with children and upbeat attitude shine!

Laura has always been willing to go the extra mile in her role on the Board and beyond. We have been especially delighted to have Laura take a lead in hosting our new Board of Directors Book Club this year to connect with GCS families. She is always prepared with thought provoking and entertaining questions! Thank you, Laura for sharing Colby with us, for staying on as he moved on to big kid school, and for sharing so much of yourself with our GCS community!

## **Beth Christoforo, Parent Representative Co-Chair**

Beth has served as a Parent Representative Chair since she joined the Board in October 2019. She has been a cornerstone as Parent Rep in making all of our GCS Families feel welcome! In fact, she has made hundreds of GCS families feel welcome with her efforts throughout the years, and her encouragement for Room Parents to help classroom families network together. Beth is a woman of many talents! She is extremely creative in so many ways. As Parent Rep, she has been our "Baker Coordinator" and she is an expert baker herself! She whips up delicious treats and meals in a snap for any occasion for the classroom, the Staff, the Board, and special events. We have been so grateful for Beth's artistic talent for the holidays, too, as a coordinator for our annual Board-hosted Wreath Making Workshops, as well.

New GCS traditions have grown with Beth's coordination, such as "Stock the Staff Room" and "Fun Fridays" to support our wonderful staff with special snacks, delicious desserts, and marvelous meals each month. Beth was the initial inspiration for our "GCS Parent Corner" on Facebook, to share ideas, activities and resources among GCS families, and seek their input and involvement. As a long time Board member, Beth has experience and expertise with our Groton Community Home Tour and Chance Table Drawings. When our Home Tour was put on hold during COVID-19, Beth generated the idea for two fun, family-friendly outdoor "Community Tours" as an alternative.

We are so glad that Beth shared both of her beautiful children, Lena and Nathan, with us, and how she has even stayed on the Board between their enrollments. We will miss Beth's ever-present smiles and her cheerful approach to everything she has done for our school! GCS won't be the same without you, Beth!

### **Brie Weider - Public Relations Co-Chair**

An absolutely amazing longevity award goes to Brie Weider, who has been serving on the Board since November 2017! She jumped right in as Public Relations Co-Chair from the outset, and has become our knowledgeable, dedicated and longstanding PR professional! Brie has the perfect personality for PR - she is upbeat, outgoing, personable, and very enthusiastic about our school. Brie knows **everyone**, has connections **everywhere**, and is always championing GCS in the community! PR is such an all-encompassing position throughout the entire school year, and Brie's contributions on the Board extend well beyond her role as PR Chair. She has had a hand in the Board of Directors' successes in countless ways throughout her years here! Brie does it all... She recruits potential families, donated goods, and Home Tour participants. She makes delicious refreshments, and makes friends wherever she goes. We have been delighted to have first Trent, and then Allison at GCS, and truly appreciate Brie's loyalty in staying on the Board even when she wasn't a current parent.

Brie has been with GCS on its journey through many changes prior to and post our *Forward Motion* expansion project, raising awareness along the way throughout each stage. Brie is our most knowledgeable Home Tour expert on the Board, and while she is retiring her position on the Board, she is staying on for our 20th Anniversary Home Tour in the fall! Talented, creative, energetic, and hardworking are just a few adjectives to describe Brie. Her artistic abilities and fine arts background, along with her people skills, make a powerful combination! We love Brie's artistic direction in not simply informing families, but raising the bar and making the GCS Weekly Notes emailed to families fun and exciting. We rely on the valuable information each week, and can't wait for the great activity suggestions, and of course the all-important joke! We will especially miss Brie's bubbly outlook, incredible energy, and her sensational sangria!