

# **Garden City PTA 2023-2024 Nominating Committee Candidates**

## **Garden City High School**

### ***Cristina Dickey***

My name is Cristina Dickey. I have been a member of both GC PTA and GC SEPTA for the past twelve years. I have two boys, my youngest is in the 8th grade at GC Middle School and my oldest is in 11th grade at GC High School. I was a class parent for several years for both my sons. I have served on both site based as well as staff/administration interview committees in the past. I have held a seat on the Executive Board for GC SEPTA since 2014 and served as GC SEPTA President for two of those years. Past work experience includes Committees Secretary, followed by Executive Assistant to the New York Director of Screen Actors Guild. Currently, I am the VP of Communications for GC SEPTA. I have also volunteered with the St. Joseph's Religious Education Program for the past eight years.

### ***Jessica Koczko***

My name is Jessica Koczko. I have two children. Justin is 18 years old and graduated from Garden City High School last year and is now attending Adelphi University. Kate is 14 years old and is a freshman at Garden City High School. Professionally, I practiced as an attorney for many years, but have been a stay at home Mom in the recent years. I have been volunteering for the GCPTA since 2010. I was the beautification chair for Homestead school for 2 years. Then I co-chaired the teacher/staff luncheons for both Homestead and Stratford for 6 years. I was a class parent for both of my children at both Homestead and Stratford for several years. I have also volunteered for sportswear for many years. I served on the PTA Nominating Committee several years ago. Finally, I co-chaired the PTA dinner for three years and am still involved in handling the online auction with my friend Tricia Schettino. I am also a member of the National Charity League (NCL) with my daughter. As part of NCL I was a Grade Level Advisor for 2 years and currently part of the Membership Committee. I am also currently a committee member for the Garden City Friends of Music.

### ***Grace Chen***

My name is Feng (Grace) Chen. I have a 9th grader in the school district. I have served on the GC PTA Nominating Committee in the past. I am a registered nurse and work for a long term care insurance company. As a working parent, I would like to take this opportunity to be involved in the community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## **Garden City Middle School**

### ***Crista Regazzi***

Mother to three wonderful children, Mikaela grade 8, TJ grade 7 and Amelia grade 3. I am running for the position of Nominating Committee. My past experiences in the education field have given me great knowledge and expertise to be effective in this role. Prior to having children I spent many years teaching elementary education. My experience has been in both the lower grades, as well as the upper grades. After having children, I became involved in the Garden City PTA. It was here that I served as the Director of Locust School, as well as Advisor. I have knowledge of what this role entails and look forward to serving our school community again. After taking a few years off from the volunteer position in the GC PTA, I am thrilled and hoping to be part of such a wonderful organization again.

### ***Lisa Stratos***

I have twin boys, Bo and Stephen, who are in 7th grade at the Middle School. We moved to Garden City almost 10 years ago, when they were 3 1/2 years old. They started Nursery School at Garden City Community Church, and within a couple of months I joined the Welcoming Club and immediately volunteered to help with their Santa Brunch and Halloween Events, and continued to do so for the next 3 years.

Once my boys started Kindergarten at Homestead I volunteered to be a Class Parent, and for the next few years I was either Class Parent or a Grade Rep. Their 2nd grade year I also volunteered to be Family Fun Coordinator at Stratford and ran a couple of Bingo Nights and a Movie Night. The following year I asked Mrs. Vota (then-Principal) if we could do a school-wide Halloween event, and with her blessing and two fabulous other ladies, we put together a phenomenal event that Stratford has continued each year since.

I've also volunteered for several of the past years for the PTA Dinner (co-Chair the Decorations/Centerpieces) and also help with the basket-wrapping, set up and whatever else is needed night-of, such as selling tickets, pulling raffle winners, etc. This year I am pitching in on the Arts in Education Committee. We have two events planned and hopefully will be able to put together more before the year end.

In my previous life, before I retired to take care of my children full time - I earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and an MBA from NYU in Economics. I worked at Verizon for 15 years: 10 years in Engineering and then Program Management for the post-9/11 Downtown Recovery; then 5 years as Director for various teams in Customer Service, and lastly, Marketing. I have good judgment and am thoughtful and considerate of how to accomplish tasks at hand. Thank you for your consideration.

### ***Juli Corrigan***

I am Juliann Corrigan (Juli for short). I'm the mom to four great kids, all of whom have been in the GC school district since kindergarten. My son is now a freshman at Regis High School in NYC. My 13-year-old daughter is in 8th grade and my twin 12-year-old daughters are in 6th grade, all at GC Middle School. My husband and I are happy members of the GC community since moving here in 2013 from Hoboken, NJ. I am currently a stay-at-home mom. I worked previously as an Audiologist and have a Masters and a Doctorate degree in Audiology. I have served as class parent in the Garden City School district every year from 2014- 2022. I enjoy volunteering in my community and have helped out on numerous school committees since 2014. I have been a catechist at St. Anne's Church for many years and have been involved with the Andy Foundation since 2013 and the Children's Medical Fund since 2023. I would like to be of service in my community and am grateful for this opportunity. Go Trojans!

### **Stewart School**

#### ***Sabrina Vona***

I have been a Garden City resident since 2011 and am the mother of three children –my oldest daughter is 11 years old and I have 10 year old twins that attend Stewart School. Since my daughter started kindergarten at Hemlock, I have volunteered with school functions whenever I can. Over the years I have been class parent, grade representative, helped on 1 st grade yearbook, beautification, teacher appreciation and curriculum committees. I also served as the PTA director of Stewart School for the 2022 and 2023 school year. I am currently a class parent for my twins 4 th grade class. I have gained a lot of experiences by volunteering on a variety of committees over the years and I believe I can be helpful on the nominating committee. I am honored to be considered to sit on the nominating committee to help choose the new slate of representatives for next year's PTA Executive Board!

#### ***Krishna Grego***

I am a CPA with over 20+ years of experience. I have 2 boys, 9YO (4th grade) and 12YO (7th grade). 12YO is special needs with PT and OT needs. My sons are active with Boy Scouts, Jujitsu, Swim/Dive, baseball/soccer based on the season. I recently started working in Garden City so I now have the flexibility to volunteer my time to various causes. I look forward to volunteering more now that my schedule allows.

I have volunteered as a class parent over the past few years and loved the experience. I have also volunteered for Cub scouts/Boys Scout events and Garden City Welcoming club over the years where I helped organize and manage a number of events.

### **Stratford School**

***Lauren Peeples***

I am a Garden City parent of three children. I have a third grade daughter at Stratford, a first grade son at Hemlock, as well as a pre-k son that will be attending Hemlock next year. I have been an active member of the Garden City PTA since my daughter started Kindergarten in 2020. I am currently a class parent at both Hemlock and Stratford. I served as the Hemlock PTA Director for the 2022-23 school year. I am a member of various PTA committees in both of my children's schools, including Beautification, PARP, Family Fun, and Library. I am also serving as the Hemlock representative for Reflections this year.

***Ellen Bayduss***

My name is Ellen Bayduss and I am excited to be considered for the Nominating Committee. I have two children at the Middle School, a daughter in 8th grade and a son in 6th grade. I also have a son in 4th grade at Stratford. For the last nine years, I have held a number of positions in the PTA. I was a member of the Executive Committee from 2020-2022. I was the VP of Legislation from 2020-2022. I am currently Co-Chair of the Photography Committee which I have held since 2020. Additionally, I have been a class parent for 7 years and I have been on the PARP committee as well as the Nominating Committee. I hope to continue my service on the Nominating Committee.

Thank you.

***Alison Volpe***

I have two daughters, one in 6th grade at GCMS and one in 4th grade at Stratford. I have volunteered in some capacity since my oldest started Kindergarten, first as a class parent, next as the primary schools representative on the Curriculum Committee and finally as the President of the PTA. I am very proud of all the work our PTA does for our children, our teachers, and all of our schools. I would be honored to sit on the Nominating Committee to help choose the leaders who will continue this important work. Thank you!

**Hemlock School*****Kristin Meriam***

I'm Kristin Meriam, my soon to be seven year old, Davis is in first grade at Hemlock. He's so excited to go to Stratford next year, since his dad had been a student there too! Since Davis started to attend Hemlock last year, I have been happy to be a part of several committees. Beautification, PARP, Spirit Week, Staff Appreciation, Service Learning, Garden, and this year I was thrilled to be asked to be the chair of Hemlock's Family Fun Committee. It was the first year that our school has had this, and our inaugural event, The Snowball, was a huge hit!

I'm a decorator, my company Meriam Interiors primarily does residential work. I went out on my own around 8 years ago, and thankfully since it is my company, I have a great amount of flexibility. Just like every parent, my main goal is to give my child the best and most successful childhood, and I feel that a large part of that is their environment and of course, their school experience. If there is any way that I can help make either of those thrive, I will always do so!

**Homestead School*****Kristina Vaccaro***

I have resided in Garden City since 2022 with my husband Russell (GCHS '99) and daughters Gemma (5) and Maya (2). In my professional life, I am a Director and Credit Analyst for the Chief Investment Office within Bank of America Private Bank, focusing on the analysis and investment strategy of municipal securities. Prior to joining Bank of America, I was a ratings analyst in Moody's Investors Service Public Finance Group and a budget analyst for the New York City Office of Management and Budget.

With my oldest daughter currently in Kindergarten at Homestead, I have enjoyed volunteering with the PTA, especially serving as co-chair of Literacy at Lunch for the current school year. I have great appreciation for the hard work and commitment that parents in our community demonstrate through their involvement within the Garden City PTA, and I am eager to add value where I can going forward.

In my free time, I enjoy running, cooking and crafting with my children and rooting for the Buffalo Bills.

### **Locust School**

#### ***Maria Oliveri***

My name is Maria Oliveri and I've been a GC resident for 7 1/2 years now. I'm first and foremost a Mom to my two children, AJ, 3rd grader at Stewart and Giavanna, a Kindergartner at Locust. I'm currently class mom for both my kids classes and also have volunteered for numerous committees at each school. I'm also a co-leader for my daughter's girl scout troop 1387. I regularly attend BOE meetings and will be assisting my husband's campaign as he runs for the BOE trustee position this May. Now that both my children are full-time students in the district, I'm eager to take on more roles with the PTA and school. I also have a very good relationship with the Principals at both Locust and Stewart. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.