

Garden City PTA Nominating Committee Bios

For General Membership Vote, February 10, 2026

High School (two candidates to be selected)

Kimberly Fellingham

Kimberly Fellingham is an occupational therapist in the Island Park School District, she has worked in the field of pediatrics for 25 years. She is a Girl Scout co-leader, with her scouts actively working towards their Gold Awards, Sunday School teacher and usher at the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

Kimberly has a junior at Garden City High School, and a 7th grader who attends choral boarding school. In the past she served as the PTA Director at Stratford Ave School, on the Health and Safety Committee, Interview Committee and Gifted and Talented Committee.

Katie Hanrahan

I'm a lifelong resident of Garden City and attended Locust, Steward and the Garden City Middle School. I am raising all three of my children in town – I currently have a 9th Grader and 7th grader in the district. While all 3 of my children were in primary and elementary, I served as a class parent each year and on other years, served as the grade coordinator. I've participated on the PARP committee and when they had it, the Pizza Friday committee. In addition to volunteering for the PTA, I have coached field hockey and softball for the town and continue to coach the girls GU13 team for Centennials. I am currently serving as the Bethany House coordinator for a local chapter of the National Charity League in town as well.

In addition to my activities supporting my children and the school district in town, I also work full time for Tiffany & Co in their corporate offices. I'm happy to support the PTA as part of the nominating committee.

Samantha Welsh

I'm Samantha Welsh, mom of three and long-time Garden City Schools parent. Currently my 3rd and youngest child is a sophomore at the high school with the other two off in college. During my time in Garden City, I've served on numerous PTA committees and chaired program boards, giving me strong insight into the qualities and qualifications best suited to Executive Committee membership. My past service has included: Publicity, Beautification Nominating Committee and Interview Committee in addition to multiple terms as a class parent. I was also the Reflections rep at Stratford for 10 years straight and chaired the district-wide Reflections committee for two years. I've also been part of the Garden City National Charity League chapter since its inception.

Middle School (two candidates to be selected)

Colleen Ciullo

Hi, I'm Colleen Ciullo and I'm running for Middle School parent rep on the 2026 PTA Nominating Committee. I have been an active volunteer with PTA since 2015. I have served as class parent and grade rep a number of times, co-chaired the PARP committee from 2019-2021, chaired the Membership Committee from 2021-2025, and continuously served on the Executive Committee of the PTA from Fall 2018 until Spring 2025. I have three daughters: a tenth-grader at GCHS, a seventh-grader at GCMS, and a fourth-grader at Stewart. I am interested in serving on the Nominating Committee to help choose the next leaders of the Garden City PTA and continue our legacy of strong leadership and service to our Garden City Public Schools. Thank you!

Amy Doggendorf

I am a parent of three children in the Garden City School District, currently in 4th, 6th, and 7th grade, and I have been an active member of the PTA each year.

I have served as a class parent at Stratford and as a grade-level representative, working closely with families, teachers, and PTA leadership to support our school community.

In addition to my parent involvement, I am a first-grade teacher in a neighboring school district, which gives me a professional perspective on education, collaboration, and effective school leadership. Together, my experience as both an educator and an engaged parent would allow me to thoughtfully help identify and select strong, committed candidates for PTA leadership.

Stewart School (two candidates to be selected)

Genevieve Banks

Hi! My name is Genevieve Banks, and I moved back to Garden City in 2020 with my husband and our three children: Grace, Nora, and Joseph. Grace is in 7th grade at Garden City Middle School, while Nora (5th grade) and Joe (3rd grade) attend Stewart School.

Since returning to Garden City, I've been actively involved in the PTA in a variety of roles. I've served as a class parent for several years and was the Locust Director from 2021–2023, working closely with committee chairs to support school initiatives. During my time as Locust Director, we launched the Family Fun Committee and the Beautification Committee, both of which remain vibrant parts of the Locust community. I also served on the Nominating Committee in 2023 and participated on the Stewart Craft Fair Committee in 2025. Beyond PTA work, I have supported and served as a guest speaker for the Sunrise Association, an organization that provides access to summer camp programs for children with cancer and their siblings.

In addition to being a mom and volunteer, I am an attorney. I graduated in 2008 and have worked in private practice, specializing in labor and education law.

Kazandra Gross

My name is Kazandra Gross, and I have three daughters in the district—a 5th grader and 3rd grader at Stewart, and a kindergartener at Locust. My family loves living in Garden City.

I have been actively involved in the PTA and have served on the following committees: Digital Citizenship, Spirit Week, Beautification, Staff Appreciation and Pizza Fridays at Stewart. I am currently my 5th grader's class parent and try to volunteer as much as I can at both schools. I understand the importance of parent involvement and truly appreciate the many opportunities to give back to our school community.

Stratford School (two candidates to be selected)**Leslie DiBenedetto**

I have lived in Garden City for 5 years. I have two children in the district—a second grader at Stratford and a kindergartener at Homestead. I've been actively involved in the school community, serving as class mom multiple times and enjoying the opportunity to support teachers, students, and fellow families. In my professional life, I work as an employment lawyer for Lyft. I look forward to working with everyone.

Kate Loesch

My name is Kate Loesch and I have 3 kids in the district - an 8th grade son, 5th grade daughter, and 3rd grade daughter. Since my son started at Homestead in 2017, I've been an active PTA volunteer, assuming the role of class parent 9 times and grade rep 3 times. When my youngest child was in 1st grade, I conceptualized and designed her 1st grade memory book including photography, layout and printing. As a 5th grade parent, I co-managed a team of volunteers in scenic design and lobby decorations for the Stratford musical, Aladdin Jr., and I'm literally in the midst of finishing the lobby decor and headshot photography for my current 5th grader's show, Frozen Jr. Whenever I'm able, I show up for the Garden City PTA and love spending time in the schools. I chaperoned last year's GCMS Late Night Jazz Band Music in the Parks competition trip and regularly volunteer for photo days and crafts across the district. Beyond the schools, I help manage my son's Centennials soccer team and I coach both of my girls' GCAA softball teams. I'd be happy to help the PTA select the best leadership candidates!

Claire Mucha

Claire Mucha is an HR Business Partner at Meta, where she partners with leaders and teams in Infrastructure to drive organizational effectiveness, support employee development, and foster a positive workplace culture. With over 14 years of prior HR experience at BlackRock, Claire has a strong background in talent management, employee relations, and strategic HR initiatives. She is married to Michael, a dedicated teacher with the NYC Department of Education, and together they have two children—Quinn (7) and Connor (18 months). Additionally, Claire serves as a Girl Scout troop leader (Brownie Troop 1459, Stratford), which supports her passion for contributing to the Stratford School community and creating an inclusive, supportive environment for all students and families.

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Hemlock School (one candidate to be selected)

Leanne Clark

My name is Leanne Clark and I am seeking a position to be on the Hemlock Nominating Committee. I have four children, Aiden who is currently in Kindergarten at Hemlock, Madison in 5th and Emilia in 3rd at Stewart and Wyatt at St. Joseph in Nursery 3s. I am a very active PTA member and am currently a class parent for three of my children and grade representative as well as the Beautification Committee lead for all schools.

I have had three children at Hemlock School and it is truly a special place. The teachers and staff make you feel like family. For this reason I would like to take on an even more active role and represent the school to continue to make Hemlock as well as all schools in the district the most wonderful place for our children to thrive.

Jenna L. Oppedisano, Ed.D.

Jenna is a seasoned early and elementary school educator and holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction. She has taught in both the public and private sectors of education and is currently teaching yoga and mindfulness at the garden city nursery school, within Garden City's Girl Scouts program as well as in private sessions in her yoga studio.

Jenna is a PTA and SEPTA member in the GCUFSD and currently a voluntary member of the curriculum committee at Hemlock School. Currently, Jenna is also a volunteer of LIFHA field hockey; coaching sixth grade girls, and is a volunteer at HorseAbility in Old Westbury; servicing children and young adults with special needs through equine therapy.

Jenna has three daughters; one at the primary level, elementary and middle school. Her daughters are in Kindergarten over at Hemlock, fourth grade over at Stratford and sixth grade in the Middle School. Jenna has a genuine love of serving her community and is committed to working toward further promoting our children's academic, physical and social and emotional skills and mindset.

Homestead School (one candidate to be selected)

Kristen Focella

My name is Kristen Focella and my son Wyatt is a Kindergartener at Homestead School. I attended Homestead myself and graduated the High School in 2008. Before moving back to Garden City, we lived in Floral Park where my son attended Nursery School and Pre-K programs. For his Nursery School, I was a parent ambassador and was a member of the PTA for his Pre-K program. I volunteered at almost every PTA event when he was in Pre-K (book fair, harvest fair, carnival, flower planting, bingo night).

This year, I volunteered to be the Kindergarten grade rep for Homestead. It's been a great experience for me to become involved with the PTA. As the year continues I look forward to being able to volunteer at more events and learn more about the PTA. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for the Nominating Committee to help select the next leaders of our children's PTA.

Locust School (one candidate to be selected)

Lindsay Weber

I have one child at Locust School who is currently in 1st grade. This year, I am serving as a class mom for her 1st grade class, co-chair the Locust Beautification Committee, and am a volunteer on the Locust 1st Grade Memory Book committee. Through these roles, I've enjoyed being actively involved in supporting our school community and collaborating with other parents and PTA volunteers to enhance the school environment for our students.