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Renee Cook
- *Vice President*
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- *Secretary*
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- *Treasurer*

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Christopher Marks
Denise Muehleck
Poshlyn Nicholson
Paula Pratt
Kristi Rink
Jim Rosenlund
Jennifer Schieler
Paul Tkach

Ex-Officio

Superintendents

Dr. Barry Reilly
Dr. Kristen Weikle

Advisory

Michelle Lamboley
Karen O'Shea
Trisha Warner
Diane Wolf

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Mission: To fund innovative academic programs for the students of Unit 5 and District 87 Public Schools.

General Information ~ BEYOND THE BOOKS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION is an Illinois 501(c)(3) charitable not-for-profit corporation. The joint-district Foundation was formed in 1992 to raise an endowed fund for the purpose stated in the Mission. The Boards of Education of Bloomington District 87 and McLean County Unit District 5 school districts encouraged the formation of the Foundation and strongly support its efforts. It is governed by a group of private citizens who live in either school district but are not part of the school community of administrators, teachers and support staffs. The school districts and the Foundation are partners for innovation in public education. Recipients of grants are educators whose creative and unique ideas are launched into model programs that can be adapted for use throughout both districts. Projects provide additional learning experiences for students not typically funded by public school budgets.

Governance ~ Between eight and eighteen elected members plus a voting representative from each district's Board of Education constitute the Board of Directors, which oversees the operations of the Foundation. Terms are for three years and are staggered in such a way that at least three directors who reside in each school district are elected each year. Directors may serve a maximum of three consecutive 3-year full terms. The Board meets in August (kickoff/orientation), September, November, January, March, April/May (confirm grant awards for the next school year) and June (annual meeting). Board meetings are held in the District's administrative offices and alternate on an annual basis between Districts. The office of President generally rotates between the districts. Other officers are balanced as possible between directors from the two districts. The officers, committee chairmen and Board of Education representatives serve as a Coordinating Committee that generally meets in the months between Board meetings (July/August, October, December, February, and April/May) or as needed. Each superintendent/designee and one representative of each district's teachers serve in an ex officio advisory position on the Board of Directors.

The Work of the Board ~ The Foundation currently does not employ any staff. Both school districts provide duplication service and storage for materials and supplies. Meetings are held at the school district offices (District 87, 300 E Monroe, Bloomington; Unit 5, 109 W Hovey, Normal), alternating on an annual basis between the districts. Communication with educators and schools is managed by the ex officio advisory members or the representatives of the Boards of Education. All other work is accomplished by the Board of Directors and other volunteers.

The Board is currently organized into the following committees; meeting frequency is based upon the functions of the particular committee:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2021-2022**

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Coordinating (officers and committee CHs) ~ Responsible for providing coordination among committees; leadership and recommendations to the Board. Finance ~ Responsible for the development and recommendation to the Board of an annual budget for the calendar/fiscal year. Reviews investment performance and has oversight of all financial matters of the Corporation. The Foundation conducts self-audits. An Annual Report is posted on the Foundation website that includes revenues and expenditures, historical information about grant applications and awards, and a list of donors for the year as well as a cumulative list of donors.

Fundraising ~ Responsible for increasing the principal of the endowment. The current endowment goal, set in 2008, is \$1 million. The value in December 2019 was about \$1,060,000.

Grants ~ Responsible for the solicitation and blind-review of all grant applications using an approved rubric, and make a recommendation of the grants to be funded to the board of directors. Annual grant funding is determined by a formula that uses 50% of annual employee payroll deductions and 4% of the average of the last three years value of the endowment. Project evaluation and information about implementation for publicity purposes is usually requested from award winners. Grant levels: Mini: \$400 or less; Standard: \$401-\$5,000; Beyond the Box: \$10,000 (this grant is in collaboration with the Shirk Family Foundation, which provides the funds, and BTBEF that selects and administers the grant).

Publicity ~ Responsible for keeping all constituencies and the general public informed about the activities of the Foundation. Reviews print and electronic materials for consistency of look and message. The Foundation maintains a website.

Nominating ~ Responsible for seeking out and recommending qualified persons to serve as directors and officers of the Board and for orientation of the board and new directors.

Expectations of a Director ~ Active participation in board and committee meetings is a legal requirement for Illinois not-for-profit boards, as is the exercise of prudent judgment in overseeing the organization's affairs. There are also legal requirements regarding the avoidance of conflicts of interest; Directors may receive no material profits.

Directors of BEYOND THE BOOKS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION are expected to demonstrate their support through....

- regular attendance at board meetings and foundation functions,
- active service on at least one committee,
- an annual personal gift that reflects both the ability to give and dedication to the Foundation's purposes (no minimum requirement), and
- solicitation of contributions to the Endowment Fund.