

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2025-2026**

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Teresa Carroll  
- Vice President  
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## Beyond the Books Educational Foundation General Information

**The Mission of Beyond the Books Educational Foundation** is 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. Established in 1992, the joint-district Foundation raises and manages an endowed fund in support of its mission. The Boards of Education of Bloomington District 87 and McLean County Unit District 5 encouraged the Foundation's formation and continue to strongly support its work.

A Board of private citizens governs the Foundation. Directors reside in one of the two school districts but are not members of the school communities of administrators, teachers, or support staff. The Foundation and the school districts partner to promote innovation in public education.

Grant recipients are educators whose creative and unique ideas launch model programs that can be adapted across both districts. Funded projects provide additional learning experiences for students that public school budgets typically do not support.

**Directors demonstrate their commitment to the Foundation by:**

- Attending Board meetings and Foundation functions regularly
- Serving actively on at least one committee
- Committing to a three-year term of service
- Making an annual personal gift that reflects both their ability to give and dedication to the Foundation's mission (no minimum requirement)
- Supporting fundraising efforts by soliciting contributions, introducing new donors, and assisting at events.

**Governance:** The Board of Directors consists of eight to eighteen elected members plus one voting representative from each district's Board of Education. The Board oversees all Foundation operations.

Directors serve three-year staggered terms so that at least three directors from each district are elected each year. Directors may serve up to three consecutive three-year terms.

The Board meets in: August (kickoff/orientation), September, November, January, March, April/May (to confirm grant awards for the following school year), and June (annual meeting).

The presidency generally rotates between the two districts. The remaining officer positions balance representation from both districts whenever possible.

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The officers, committee chairs, and Board of Education representatives form the Coordinating Committee. This committee meets between Board meetings in July/August, October, December, February, and April/May, or as needed.

Each superintendent or designee and one representative from each district's teachers serve as ex officio advisory members of the Board of Directors.

**The Work of the Board:** The Foundation does not employ staff. Both school districts provide duplication services and storage for materials and supplies. The Board holds meetings either virtually or at district offices, alternating annually between the two districts. Ex officio advisory members and Board of Education representatives manage communication with educators and schools. The Board of Directors and volunteers carry out all other Foundation work.

**The Board is organized into the following committees.** Each committee meets according to its assigned functions and responsibilities.

- **Coordinating (Officers and Committee Chairs):** Coordinates committee work and provides leadership and recommendations to the Board.
- **Finance:** Develops and recommends the annual budget; reviews investment performance; and oversees all financial matters, including self-audits. Publishes an Annual Report on the Foundation website with revenues and expenditures, grant history, and current and cumulative donor lists.
- **Fundraising:** Organizes and implements activities that grow the endowment and develop additional funding sources to support the Foundation's mission.
- **Grants:** Solicits and conducts blind reviews of grant applications using an approved rubric and recommends awards to the Board. Determines annual grant funding using 50% of employee payroll deductions and 3–5% of the three-year average endowment value (adjustable by Board vote). Requests project evaluations and implementation updates for publicity. Grant levels include:
  - Mini: \$800 or less
  - Standard: \$801–\$5,000
  - Beyond the Box: \$7,500–\$10,000 (funded by the Shirk Family Foundation and administered by BTBEF)
- **Publicity:** Communicates Foundation activities to all constituencies and the public. Reviews print and digital materials for consistent branding and messaging and maintains the Foundation website.
- **Nominating:** Identifies and recommends qualified candidates for Board and officer positions and leads orientation for new directors.

**Expectations of a Director:** Active participation in Board and committee meetings is a legal requirement for Illinois not-for-profit directors, as is the exercise of prudent judgment in overseeing the Foundation's affairs. Directors must avoid conflicts of interest and may not receive any material profit from their service.