



UEN Superintendent & Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2023, 11am – 1pm

(following UEN Orientation from 10-11am)

**West Des Moines Learning Resource Center, Community Room,
3550 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines**

Steering Committee Attendees: Matt Degner, Chair (Iowa City), TJ Schneckloth, Chair-Elect (Davenport), Vickie Murillo, Past-Chair, (Council Bluffs), Cindy Garlock (Cedar Rapids), Kelli Soyer (Des Moines), Ian Roberts (Des Moines), Jan George (Sioux City), Sue Flynn (Waterloo), Sue Flynn (Waterloo). *(Bylaws require a majority of charter members for a quorum. As seven of the eight Originating Charter districts were represented, quorum was met for this meeting.)*

Other Members in Attendance: Julious Lawson (Ames), Michelle Morse (Bettendorf), Doug Wheeler (College), Amy Kortemeyer (Linn-Mar), Pat Hamilton (Mason City), Dirk Halupnik (Southeast Polk), Stacey Cole (Storm Lake), Brad Buck (Waukee), Matt Adams (West Des Moines).

Staff/Guest Attendees: Margaret Buckton (ISFIS), Larry Sigel (ISFIS) and Jen Albers (ISFIS)

UEN Purpose Statement:

The Urban Education Network keeps the state's lawmakers, the media, and the public informed about the progress and problems in our state's largest and most diverse schools. The organization does this through advocacy, legislation, communications and research.

The UEN also helps to build capacity in urban education by facilitating connections between member districts to improve student academic performance and narrow achievement gaps, improve professional development; and strengthen leadership, governance, and management.

In addition, joint efforts with other state organizations and policymakers extend the UEN's influence and effectiveness outside member school districts to the broader community that will ultimately benefit from the contributions of today's urban students.

All members of the Urban Education Network help determine program priorities. For guidance, the members rely upon data retrieved from local, state, regional and national sources. In addition, specific issues arise addressing contemporary events, legislative concerns and current trends. The priorities of the UEN continually evolve, reflecting the changing needs of urban students, families and communities.

1. Welcome, Call to Order by Matt Degner (UEN Chair) and Introductions

Matt Degner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:08 am. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Murillo moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Soyer. Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from the Steering Committee on May 12, 2023

Flynn moved approval of the May 12, 2023 Steering Committee Minutes, seconded by Soyer. Approved unanimously.

4. Financial Reports

a. Independent Auditors Report and IRS Form 990 for FYE 06/30/2023 – Robert Endress, Denman & Company

Albers introduced Robert Endress of the audit firm of Denman & Company. Endriss presented the independent auditor's report and related letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Total Income of 204,730, Total Expenses of \$137,145, Net Income of \$67,585, Total Equity of \$137,712. Discussion ensued. *A motion was made by Murillo to approve the independent auditors report. Buck seconded. Approved unanimously.*

b. FY 2024 YTD Financial Report & Corporate Sponsors

Albers presented the YTD Financial Report through August 31, 2023, along with a bill pay listing of items since the last Steering Committee meeting. *A motion was made by Garlock to approve the 08/31/2023 YTD Financial Report and Bill Pay Listing as presented. George seconded. Approved unanimously.*

Albers and Buckton shared information on a new potential Corporate Sponsor for FY 2024, Solution Tree. *A motion was made by Murillo to approve Solution Tree as UEN Corporate Sponsors for FY 2024. Kortemeyer seconded. Discussion ensued. Approved unanimously.*

5. Discussion with Iowa Department of Education Director Snow (11:30am – 12pm)

Director Snow joined the group and all attendees introduced themselves sharing the top priorities for their local districts. Director Snow then shared comments with the group about the vision for the Department and their top priorities around Early Literacy, College/Career Readiness, Resources for Student Achievement, and Teacher Pipeline/Pathway. Director Snow shared her background and experience, then shared Statewide ISAP data and observations. The group discussed a number of topics such as: Assessments in Iowa, Iowa's funding formula, communication and working together with district leaders to address & close achievement gaps, compliance-focus v. student-needs-focus, funding and flexibility for public schools, supports needed by districts from the department, and more.

6. 2024 UEN Legislative Priorities & Legislative Workgroup

a. Legislative Issues Survey Results

b. Recruit participants for the Legislative Workgroup

c. 2024 Legislative Priorities

Buckton reviewed the results of the Legislative Issues Survey of UEN members and recruited individuals for a UEN Legislative Workgroup that will gather to draft 2024 priorities and share those in November. Included in the packet was a process the Workgroup will use to begin developing the priority language.

7. Membership/Bylaws Workgroup Report

Buckton reviewed the activities of the UEN Bylaws Workgroup meeting from this summer, and the reviewed the redline change recommendations to the UEN Bylaws from the Committee. Discussion ensued. *The general consensus was to defer any action until the November meeting.*

8. UEN Annual Dinner – November 17, 2023

- a. Draft Agenda
- b. Networking Conversations
- c. Invitation & Registration - <https://www.uen-ia.org/uen-annual-meeting>

This agenda item was tabled due to time constraints but a draft agenda for the UEN Annual Dinner and a sharable invitation was included in the meeting materials packet.

9. Steering Committee Member/Superintendent Updates

This agenda item was tabled due to time constraints.

10. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

11. Upcoming Meeting Dates - <https://www.uen-ia.org/calendar>

- September 22, 2023 (1-3pm) – UEN Officers Discussion (in person, WDSM)
- October 20, 2023 (11:30-1) – Superintendents (via Zoom)
- November 15, 2023 (10-12:30) – Superintendents (in-person, WDSM)
- November 15, 2023 (noon-3) – Steering Committee (in-person, WDSM)
- November 15, 2023 (6-8:30pm) – Annual Meeting (in-person, Hilton Des Moines)
- December 15, 2023 (11:30-1) – Superintendents (via Zoom)
- February 9, 2024 (11-1) – Steering Committee (via Zoom)
- May 10, 2024 (11-3) – Steering Committee (in-person, TBD)

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus 1:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Margaret Buckton, UEN Executive Director, 09/22/2023