



**UEN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 14, 2023, 1 – 2pm**  
**1201 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA, 50311 or**  
**Via Zoom (contact [jen@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:jen@iowaschoolfinance.com) for link)**

**Steering Committee Attendees:** Matt Degner (Iowa City), TJ Schneckloth (Davenport), Amy Hawkins (Dubuque), Vickie Murillo (Council Bluffs), Jan George (Sioux City CSD), Ian Roberts (Des Moines), Kelli Soyer (Des Moines), Cindy Garlock (Cedar Rapids), Tawana Grover (Cedar Rapids). *(Bylaws require a majority of charter members for a quorum, and the quorum was met for this meeting.)*

**Other Members in Attendance:** Doug Wheeler (College)

**Staff/Guest Attendees:** Margaret Buckton (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**

Chair Degner called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. A quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Garlock moved approval of the agenda, seconded by George. Approved unanimously.*

**3. Approval of Steve Gering Contract for Founding 8 Executive Coaching**

*Grover moved approval of the contract with Steve Gering for Executive Coaching, seconded by Hawkins. Discussion ensued. Approved unanimously.*

**4. Approval of changes to the Bylaws (as recommended by Membership/Bylaws Workgroup)**

UEN Bylaws state that “UEN Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Steering Committee and endorsed by a majority of the charter member districts. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing and sent to the membership seven days prior to a vote.”

Proposed changes to the UEN Bylaws were redlined in the meeting materials packet with an explanation of the changes, as recommended by the UEN Bylaws/Membership Workshop this past summer. They were reviewed at the September Steering Committee Meeting and also at the October UEN Superintendents Meeting. *Garlock moved approval of the changes to the Bylaws as recommended by the Membership/Bylaws Workgroup, seconded by Hawkins. Discussion ensued. Approved unanimously.*

**5. Other Business**

The group briefly discussed recently announced DE initiatives and ensuring UEN voices are represented. This topic will be added to the agenda for the November 15<sup>th</sup> UEN Superintendent’s Meeting.

No other business was discussed.

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

- a. **November 15, 2023 (10am-12:30pm)** – Superintendents (West Des Moines Learning Center)
- b. **November 15, 2023 (12-2:30pm)** – Steering Committee (West Des Moines Learning Center)
- c. **November 15, 2023 (6-8:30pm)** – Annual Dinner (Hilton Downtown Des Moines)
- d. **December 15, 2023 (11:30-1)** – Superintendents (via Zoom)
- e. **February 9, 2024 (11-1)** – Steering Committee (via Zoom)
- f. **May 10, 2024 (11-3)** – Steering Committee (in-person, TBD)

**7. Adjourn**

*George moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Murillo. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.*

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Buckton, UEN Executive Director, 11/14/2023