



UEN Superintendent & Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023, 12:30 – 2:30pm

(following UEN Superintendents from 10am-12pm and Joint Luncheon)

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

Steering Committee Attendees: Matt Degner (Iowa City), TJ Schneckloth (Davenport), Amy Hawkins (Dubuque), Vickie Murillo (Council Bluffs), Jan George (Sioux City CSD), Rod Earleywine (Sioux City), Ian Roberts (Des Moines), 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: Erick Pruitt (Ankeny), Robert Scott (Burlington), Doug Wheeler (College), Amy Kortmeyer (Linn-Mar), Matt Adams (West Des Moines)

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

Chair Degner called the meeting to order at 12:39 pm. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Schneckloth moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Pruitt. Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from the Steering Committee on September 22, 2023

Schneckloth moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Roberts. Approved unanimously.

4. Update from November 14th Steering Committee Meeting

Buckton shared a recap of the November 14th Steering Committee action items including hiring an Executive Coach for the Founding Member District Superintendent's PLC and the amendments to the UEN Bylaws.

5. YTD Financial Report

Albers presented the YTD Financial Report through September 30, 2023, along with a bill pay listing of items since the last Steering Committee meeting. *A motion was made by Murillo to approve the 09/30/2023 YTD Financial Report and Bill Pay Listing as presented. Schneckloth seconded. Approved unanimously.*

6. 2024 UEN Legislative Priorities Consideration and Approval

Buckton reviewed the Legislative Workgroup process to develop the 2024 UEN Legislative Priorities draft language and the group reviewed each priority individually and made minor revisions to the draft language. *Pruitt moved approval of the 2024 UEN Legislative Priorities as updated during the meeting. Second by Hawkins. Approved unanimously.*

7. UEN Annual Dinner – November 17, 2023

- a. **Agenda**
- b. **Networking Conversations**
- c. **Steering Committee Responsibilities**

Buckton shared the plans for this evening’s UEN Annual Dinner and the responsibilities for Steering Committee members. Discussion ensued.

8. Steering Committee Member Updates

Discussion took place around residential facilities and services previously provided by juvenile detention facilities, and gathering contacts at local districts for the person who works with these issues.

9. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

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

- **November 15, 2023 (6-8:30pm) – Annual Dinner (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)**

11. Adjourn

George moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pruitt. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margaret Buckton, UEN Executive Director, 11/15/2023