UEN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2025, 12 pm
(following UEN Superintendents Meeting)
1201 63rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50311
or Via Zoom (contact jen@iowaschoolfinance.com for link)

Steering Committee Attendees: TJ Schneckloth, Chair (Davenport), Amy Hawkins, Chair-Elect (Dubuque), Juan Cordova, Chair Elect II (Sioux City), Matt Degner, Past-Chair (Iowa City), Jared Smith, Treasurer (Waterloo), Cindy Garlock (Cedar Rapids), Patrick Peters (Council Bluffs), Astor Williams (Waterloo)
(Bylaws require a majority of charter members for a quorum, and the quorum was met for this meeting.)

Other Members in Attendance: None

Staff/Guest Attendees: Margaret Buckton (ISFIS), Jen Albers (ISFIS), Robert Endriss (Denman CPA)

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 and Introductions by TJ Schneckloth (UEN Chair)**
   Chair Schneckloth called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. All attendees introduced themselves and shard good things happening at their local districts. A quorum was present.

2. **Action on Agenda**
   Garlock moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Cordova. Approved unanimously.

3. **Action on Steering Committee Minutes from July 17, 2025**
   Garlock moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Hawkins. Approved unanimously.

4. **Financial Reports**
    a. Receive the Independent Auditors Report for FYE 06/30/2025 – Robert Endriss, Denman CPA
    Robert Endriss of the audit firm, Denman CPA presented the independent auditor's report and related letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. Total Income of $212,303, Total Expenses of $154,013, Net Income of $58,290, Total Equity of $262,719. Discussion ensued.

    b. Action on FY 2026 YTD Financial Report & Corporate Sponsors
    Albers presented the FY 2026 YTD Financial Report through August 31, 2025, along with a bill pay listing of items since the last Steering Committee meeting.

    Albers shared that the 2025 Session Lobby Report has been completed and a link to the filed report is in the packet.

    Albers shared a request from Invision Architecture to be new UEN Corporate Sponsors for FY 2026.

    A motion was made by Hawkins and seconded by Peters to receive the items in the financial report as presented. Approved unanimously.

5. **Update on Urban School "Good News" Awareness Campaign**
    Buckton reported on a conversation between UEN staff and the Donavon Group around the contemplated "Good News" Awareness Campaign discussed at the July Steering Committee meeting. Next steps will be to discuss with the Superintendents and pull together a workgroup to explore further.

6. **Discussion on 2026 UEN Legislative Priorities**
    Buckton walked through results of the UEN Legislative Survey of member districts around their priorities, and also shared a redline draft of the 2026 UEN legislative priorities. Discussion ensued. The group was asked to review and provide thoughts/feedback. Final language will be presented to the Steering Committee for approval at the November meeting.

7. **Updates on Legislative Interim Actions**
    Buckton updated the group on various interim legislative actions. Discussion ensued.

8. **UEN Annual Dinner – November 19, 2025**
    a. Draft Agenda
    b. Networking Conversations
    c. Invitation & Registration - https://www.uen-ia.org/uen-annual-meeting

    Buckton and Albers shared a draft agenda and discussed plans for the November UEN Annual Dinner. The group is encouraged to share the invitation with member candidates

running for school board elections as there is a short time between the election and the dinner. Discussion ensued.

9. **Updates from Steering Committee Members**
   No updates were shared by Steering Committee Members as those were done in the introductions.

10. **Other Business**
    No other business was discussed.

11. **Upcoming Meeting Dates** - https://www.uen-ia.org/calendar
    The group reviewed upcoming meeting dates.

12. **Adjourn**
    Williams moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Peters. The meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margaret Buckton, UEN Executive Director, 09/19/2025

UEN 2025-26 Steering Committee Members:

- Chair - TJ Schneckloth, Davenport
- Chair-Elect - Amy Hawkins, Dubuque
- Chair-Elect II – Juan Cordova, Sioux City
- Past-Chair - Matt Degner, Iowa City
- Board Member - Cindy Garlock, Cedar Rapids
- Board Member - Astor Williams, Waterloo
- Board Member - Patrick Peters, Council Bluffs
- Board Member – Jackie Norris, Des Moines
- Treasurer - Jared Smith, Waterloo

All UEN Member Districts have a vote on matters in front of the Steering Committee.

Upcoming Steering Committee Meeting Dates - https://www.uen-ia.org/calendar

- November 19, 2025 – Steering Committee 12:30 Lunch; Mtg 1-2 in Des Moines or via Zoom
- February 20, 2026 - Steering Committee 12-1pm via Zoom
- April 24, 2026 - Steering Committee 12-1 via Zoom