



September 19, 2019
UEN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
IACCT Office, 855 E Court Ave., Des Moines IA 50309
10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

Paul Gausman called the meeting to order at 10:29. Attending at IACCT office, Tami Ryan, Dubuque, Vickie Marillo, Council Bluffs, Tom Ahart, Des Moines, staff Lew Finch, Larry Sigel and Margaret Buckton, and attending via gotomeeting since schedules did not allow travel Rhonda McRina, Waterloo, Allison Beck, Davenport.

Ryan moved approval of the agenda and Aug. 1 Steering Committee minutes, Murillo seconded. Approved unanimously.

Progress on Title I letters; Buckton described current status, federal DOE letter granting waiver authority was received at Iowa DE sept. 11, thanks to Council Bluffs for initiating that!! Letters ask state and federal leaders for flexibility, more transparency on federal funds formulas and resources to make up the shortfall. Letters will be sent electronically, signed by Chair Gausman. Discussion ensued. Des Moines expressed concerns with inability for buildings to retain carry forward. Ahart moved approval, Murillo Second. Approved unanimously.

Delayed District Legislative Priorities Discussion

UEN Banquet: Discussion about agenda, table conversations, will have intro and awards, consensus was expressed to delay start time until 5:30. Last year was too long and questions took too much table management/facilitation. Will include legislative update and information about priorities. Other staff HR, Equity, Superintendent and Finance are encouraged to attend as value added to school board members. Discussion ensued about challenges in recruiting newly elected board members to the annual meeting/banquet. Opportunity to both celebrate and welcome new board members should be included.

By-laws draft – Gausman explained the process. Reviewed the draft of by-laws version 2.0. Buckton walked through the recent revisions. Ahart discussed the reason for describing urban-ness through our by-laws – with the intent of being thoughtful and urgent in describing to all of our audiences what we mean as urban. We need to get all of the districts to band together to have a more potent and powerful voice. Not an attempt to exclude, but rather to lift up those who haven't been well-served by our system.

Buckton will send the spreadsheet on the criteria to participants of this meeting. Discussion on the criteria ensued. Next steps: Distribute to membership and gather feedback from members. So ordered by consensus.

Transition steps to management structure moving forward. Need a new executive director or management structure starting July 1. Gausman asked for steering committee member input from regarding leadership job description to be distributed and inform transition planning. Another option is to change the management structure.

Ryan expressed that she would like to see a full-time legislative person of Margaret's capacity, not shared with another entity. If that could be combined into another management structure, that would be beneficial. Beck asked for the group to consider what's worked and what hasn't. If budget allows, don't fix what isn't broken, but agree having the combined job functions is something to think about. McRina stated that dues/salary is the elephant in the room. To make the lobbying individual full time would require sufficient salary and support. Additional discussion regarding leadership options ensued. Discussion will continue at November 20 Steering Committee meeting.

No other business.

Ahart moved adjournment. Murrillo seconded. Adjourned unanimously at 11:42.

Additional Information: Larry shared PPT on ISL shortfall and impact on urban districts.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margaret Buckton 11.20.2019