



UEN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2024, 12:30 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), Rod Earlywine, Chair-Elect (Sioux City), Matt Degner, Amy Hawkins, Chair-Elect II (Dubuque), Past-Chair (Iowa City), Cindy Garlock (Cedar Rapids), Tawana Grover (Cedar Rapids), Patrick Peters (Council Bluffs), Jackie Norris (Des Moines), Astor Williams (Waterloo), Jared Smith (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), Larry Sigel (ISFIS), 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 and Introductions by TJ Schneckloth (UEN Chair)

Chair Schneckloth called the meeting to order at 12:37 pm. A quorum was present.

2. Action on Agenda

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

3. Action on Steering Committee Minutes from September 20, 2024

Garlock moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Degner. Approved unanimously.

4. Action on YTD Financial Report

Albers presented the YTD Financial Report through October 31, 2024, along with a bill pay listing of items since the last Steering Committee meeting. A motion was made by Hawkins to approve the 10/31/2024 YTD Financial Report and Bill Pay Listing as presented. Seconded by Garlock. Approved unanimously.

5. Action on 2025 UEN Legislative Priorities

Buckton reviewed the draft language for each proposed 2025 Legislative Priority as drafted by staff and the UEN Legislative Workgroup. Discussion ensued on each priority item and specific language. Priorities were approved as follows:

- Invest in Iowa's Future: Adequate Funding for Public Education – Smith moved approval. Second by Degner. Approved unanimously.*
- Teacher, Administrator, Staff Shortage – Earlywine moved approval. Second by Norris. Approved unanimously.*
- Quality Preschool – Garlock moved approval. Second by Grover. Approved unanimously.*
- Student Opportunity/Poverty – Garlock moved approval incorporating some minor wordsmithing made by the group. Second by Hawkins. Approved unanimously.*
- English-Learner Programs & Services – Garlock moved approval. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously.*
- Literacy – Norris moved approval. Second by Peters. Approved unanimously.*
- High School Programming – Norris moved approval. Second by Earlywine. Approved unanimously.*
- Special Education Identification and Instruction – Peters moved approval. Second by Norris. Approved unanimously.*
- Education Savings Accounts & School Choice Opposition – Norris moved approval. Second by Earlywine. Approved unanimously.*
- Mental Health Services – Degner moved approval. Second by Garlock. Approved unanimously.*
- District Authority – Earlywine moved approval. Second by Norris. Approved unanimously.*
- Safety and Cybersecurity – Hawkins moved approval. Second by Peters. Approved unanimously.*

6. Updates on UEN Annual Dinner (evening of November 20, 2024)

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

Buckton reviewed the plans and responsibilities for the UEN Annual Dinner taking place this evening and explained the panel discussion and networking conversation topics that will occur. Discussion ensued.

7. Updates from Steering Committee Members

Steering Committee members shared updates from their local districts including the following topics: 2025 legislative session and likely topics, change in federal administration and likely impact on education in Iowa, apprentice programs, industry-recognized credentials, college prep courses and various career pathways for students, and upcoming staff transitions.

8. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Garlock to adjourn the meeting. Second by Degner. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:11 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margaret Buckton, UEN Executive Director, 11/20/2024*

UEN 2024-25 Steering Committee Members:

- Chair - TJ Schneckloth, Davenport
- Chair-Elect - Amy Hawkins, Dubuque
- Chair-Elect II - Rod Earlywine, 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 20, 2024 - Annual Dinner 6-8:30pm in Des Moines
- February 7, 2025 - Steering Committee 12-1pm via Zoom
- May 9, 2025 - Steering Committee Lunch/Meeting 12-1:30 in Des Moines or via Zoom