



UEN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2020, 4:30 – 5:30pm

1201 63rd Street, Des Moines, IA, 50311 or Via Zoom (contact jen@iowaschoolfinance.com for link)

Committee Member Attendees via Zoom: Vickie Murillo, Chair (Council Bluffs), Noreen Bush, Chair-Elect (Cedar Rapids), Stan Rheingans, Chair-Elect 2/Treasurer (Dubuque), Paul Gausman, Past-Chair, (Sioux City), Dan Gosa (Davenport), Kelli Soyer (Des Moines), JP Claussen (Iowa City), Endya Johnson (Waterloo), Jenny Risner (Ames), Jesse Ulrich (Fort Dodge), Theron Schutte (Marshalltown), Mike McGrory (Ottumwa), TJ Schneckloth (Davenport), and Matt Degner (Iowa City)

Others/Staff/Guest Attendees via Zoom: Margaret Buckton (ISFIS), Larry Sigel (ISFIS), and Jen Albers (ISFIS)

Welcome, Call to Order by Vicki Murillo (UEN Chair), and Introduction/Roll of Attendees

Murillo, Chair, called the meeting to order via Zoom at 4:32 pm. All attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

McGrory moved approval of the agenda. Rheingans seconded. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2020 Steering Committee Meeting

McGrory moved approval of the September 24, 2020 Steering Committee minutes. Rheingans seconded. Approved unanimously.

YTD Financial Report

Albers presented the YTD financial report through 09/30/2020, along with a bill pay listing of items since the last Steering Committee meeting. Net Income YTD totaled \$113,496. *A motion was made by Ulrich to approve the FY 2021 YTD Financial Report, Bill Pay listing and ISFIS Expense Reimbursement in the amount of \$337.46. Gausman seconded. Approved unanimously.*

Preschool Enrollment, Funding Implications, Advocacy Implications

Buckton shared information on preschool enrollment, potential funding implications since PK does not have either a budget guarantee provision in the formula or the ability to ask the SBRC for modified supplemental amount due to an enrollment increase. The group discussed different policies to protect preschool budgets from financial swings to avoid disruption in service for an upcoming year.

ISFIS Contract for FY 2022 and FY 2023

It was requested at the most recent Steering Committee meeting that ISFIS bring a contract proposal to continue the relationship with UEN for FY 2022 and FY 2023, to continue the momentum so far this year and ensure there are several years of continuity for the organization. Buckton shared a proposal and agreement. Discussion ensued and members weighed in discussion. *A motion was made by Ulrich to approve the contract between UEN & ISFIS for FY 2022 and FY 2023 as presented. Second by Gausman. Approved unanimously.*

Update on 2020 Election

Buckton shared information on the 2020 election results at the federal and state level, including likely impact on leadership and advocacy at the Iowa Statehouse and in Washington D.C.. Discussion ensued. More information will be shared at the UEN Annual Meeting.

UEN Legislative Priorities for 2021 Session

The group discussed the draft priorities from the Legislative Committee and language shared in the meeting packet. Each draft priority was reviewed and discussed individually.

- **Investing in Iowa's Future (SSA)** – *Motion by Gausman to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Bush, approved unanimously.*
- **Student Opportunity Equity (Close the Gap)** - *Motion by Ulrich to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Gausman, approved unanimously.*
- **Teacher, Administrator and Staff Shortage** - *Motion by Claussen to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Rheingans, approved unanimously.*
- **Mental Health Services** - *Motion by Risner to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Soyer, approved unanimously.*
- **School Safety** – Discussion about the relative importance of this item took place. While the group felt this was an important issue and an eye should be kept on legislation related to School Safety issues, the group did not feel it should be on the priority list for the 2021 session. *Motion was made by Bush to remove this item from the priority list. Second by Rheingans, approved unanimously.*
- **District Authority** - *Motion by Ulrich to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Risner, approved unanimously.*
- **Public School Priority** - *Motion by McGrory to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Bush, approved unanimously.*
- **Remote Learning and Instructional Time** - *Motion by Risner to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Rheingans, approved unanimously.*
- **Internet Connectivity and Access** - *Motion by Rheingans to approve the priority as drafted. Second by Ulrich, approved unanimously.*

Discussion took place around valuing staff and advocating on their behalf. The group discussed the need for talking points about the importance of good benefits for staff, including IPERS, as part of the Teacher/Administrator/Staff Shortage priority. Buckton committed to provide an issue brief specific to IPERS.

UEN Annual Meeting Steering Committee Responsibilities

Buckton reviewed the agenda for the upcoming UEN Annual Meeting and responsibilities of the Steering Committee members.

Other Business

The group discussed how vital public schools are to their communities and maintaining consistencies for Iowa's children. Schools are not just for educating students, as proven this year, but also serve as a food distribution hub, as a daycare resource, provide positive supports for student mental health, and

much more. The group discussed ways to help get that message out to communities and legislators heading into discussions about funding schools during the upcoming legislative session.

No other business.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- UEN Annual Meeting – *Today 6 pm – 7:30 pm*
- UEN Steering Committee Meeting – *February 11 from 10 – 11:30 am* (In-person in Des Moines, or virtually via Zoom)
- UEN Steering Committee Meeting – *May 14 from 11 am – 12:30 pm* (virtually via Zoom)

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Margaret Buckton, UEN Executive Director, as of 11/05/2020