

## Dist. 15 to check how it bids out

### Board wants to ensure it is fiscally responsible

By Chad Brooks

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Hoping to avoid any appearance of not being financially responsible, Palatine Township Elementary District 15 officials plan to review which products and services they send out for public bid.

The move comes after several school board members said they felt it was important to remove any doubt from the community's mind they are getting the best deal possible on all the district's purchases.

"If you don't bid, you might not be getting the best deal at that time," board member Tim Millar said.

Issues over public bidding arose last year, Millar said, when the district was looking into selling some bonds.

Millar said there was confusion about whether the district bid out the sales of the bonds and if they were getting the best deal on repayment.

According to Illinois School Code, contracts for purchases of goods or services more than \$10,000 must be submitted for public bid.

"I would like to clear this up," Millar said. "It would be nice to remove that cloud from the district."

Board member Kelly Keenan said asking to review their procedures is not her way of pointing fingers at anyone.

"I don't think any employee is doing anything illegally," Keenan said. "That was not the intent of this."

While she did agree to the review, school board President Nancy Carlson said the district is following the school code and believes the bidding process is fine as is.

"I think things are going well and I don't see that a change is necessary," Carlson said.

Millar said he thinks the district should be sending everything out for public bid.

"We should always be out there trying to get the best deal," Millar said.

Keenan said she agrees bidding things out is the more financially sound practice.

"There is no advantage to not bidding out," Keenan said.

District officials said they anticipate completing the bid process review over the next month, with a report on their progress due back to the school board in October.