

[Back to regular view](#) • [Print this page](#)

Firm drops out of superintendent search

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/palatine/news/565778,pa-suptsearch-092007-s1.article>)

September 20, 2007

By [MARIO BARTOLETTI](#) Staff Writer

After speaking with District 15 Board of Education President Tim Millar, superintendent search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates Ltd. withdrew Friday its proposal to help the district search for its next leader.

"We mutually decided after a conversation not to proceed, and they withdrew their proposal," Millar said. "We realized that the potential conflict (of interest) could be more than we anticipated."

The School Board voted 3-2 Sept. 12, with Millar one of the votes in favor, to hire the firm to search for a new superintendent for the district.

District 15 board member Gerald Chapman, a former superintendent of High School District 211, is an independent contractor for the firm and abstained from the vote.

After getting additional information and clarity, Millar said, it appeared there was a greater potential for problems, and it wasn't worth the risk.

Meeting tonight

Board members who voted in favor of the initial proposal can ask to revisit the vote if they wish at a special meeting of the board at 7 p.m. today (Thursday) at Sundling Junior High School, 1100 N. Smith St., Palatine.

"Procedurally, we had options. If they didn't withdraw, we could still reconsider the vote," Millar said. "The challenge was, due to the Open Meetings Act, I couldn't communicate with the rest of the board (until the next meeting)."

Millar said firm officials understood it was in their mutual interest to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

"There are policies about school board ethics in the school code," board member Sue Quinn said. "We're not supposed to give even the appearance of impropriety."

District 15 Superintendent Robert McKanna's contract is up the end of this school year: June 30, 2008.

The board will consider the remaining search firms: BWP Associates LLC, the Illinois Association of School Boards and School Exec Connect.

Web sites for each of the search firms are:

www.bwpassociates.com

www.iasb.com/executive/

www.schoolexecconnect.com



© Copyright 2007 Sun-Times News Group | [Terms of Use](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Submission Guidelines](#)