



CRETE-MONEE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Committee of the Whole Meeting – May 12, 2026

Discussion to approve and accept the bid results for milk procurement for the 2026-2027 school year.
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The Issue:

The District has a recurring need to contract for milk procurement for all eight school sites. The current procurement cycle is for the 2026-2027 school year, with the contract slated to begin on July 1, 2026. The bid includes an option to extend the agreement for an additional four years through the 2030-2031 school year.

Justification:

To remain in alignment with Illinois bid laws and procedures, District 201-U publicly requested sealed proposals for milk procurement. This competitive process ensures the District receives the most cost-effective pricing while maintaining high standards for safety, reliability, and service.

Board Policy and Past Practices:

It is the policy of the Board of Education to purchase and contract in accordance with state bid laws.

Strategic Plan:

- **Goal 6:** Prioritize our financial resources to meet our short and long-term goals.

Community Impact:

This procurement ensures that students have access to fresh, high-quality milk products (pure, pasteurized, and homogenized) during the school year. Maintaining these services supports the District's goal of providing safe and inviting facilities for students and staff.

Supporting Data:

The Invitation to Bid was issued on March 27, 2026, and advertised in the *Sun-Times* newspaper and on the District website. Bids were opened on April 22, 2026.

One bid was received from our current provider, Prairie Farms Dairy Inc. The submitted pricing is an "escalation/de-escalation" (flex) model, which adjusts monthly based on the USDA Federal Milk Market Price Announcement for Class 1 Skim and Butterfat.

Proposed 2026-2027 Unit Pricing:

Product Type	Unit Price (per half-pint)
1% White Milk	\$0.295
Non-fat or 1% Chocolate Milk	\$0.315
Lactaid	\$0.999

Historical Price Context:

A review of the last two years shows steady fluctuations in milk costs:

- **August 2024:** White milk was \$0.33; Chocolate was \$0.35.
- **March 2025:** White milk was \$0.26; Chocolate was \$0.27.
- **April 2026:** Prices rose to \$0.28 for White milk and \$0.31 for Chocolate.

The proposed 2026-2027 starting rates are consistent with recent market trends.

Financial Impact:

These items will be paid through the Education Fund. The final annual cost will vary based on actual student consumption and the monthly USDA price adjustments.

Recommendation:

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the milk bid results as presented by Prairie Farms Dairy Inc. for the 2026-2027 school year.