



# **PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

**"QUALITY EDUCATION WITH CARE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT".**

PAEC CENTER BOARDROOM - 6:05 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

## **AGENDA**

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**
3. **CLOSED SESSION**
4. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**
5. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
6. **APPROVAL OF GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**
7. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - A. **INFINITEC UPDATE**
8. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**
  - B. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
  - C. **NEW BUSINESS**
    - a. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**
    - b. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT REPORT**
    - c. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF MONIES FROM EDUCATIONAL FUND TO TRANSPORTATION FUND**
    - d. **GEOHERMAL UPDATE**
    - e. **EMBRACE IEP CONTRACT**
    - f. **BAKERTILLY US, LLP-AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER**
    - g. **FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION**
    - h. **PAEC ESY PROPOSED PROGRAM 2025**

### **9. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

The Executive Board meeting was held on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Those present included: Ms. Abby Roger (PAEC Governing Board Attorney), Dr. Dan Sullivan from District #87, Ms. Rosalind Banks and Ms. Michaelene Bender from District #88, Dr. Janiece Jackson and Mrs. Roshune Pechacek from District #92, Dr. Kevin Suchinski and Dr. Antonia Hill from District #93, and Mr. Alexander Aschoff from District #209.

Mr. Michael James, Mrs. Vanessa Schmitt, Ms. LaShonda McDaniel, and Mrs. Trainette Latham from PAEC Administration were also present.

The Executive Board reviewed and recommended approval of all action items on the agenda except the Geothermal Bid and the BakerTilly Audit Engagement Letter. The Geothermal Bid failed, and the BakerTilly Audit Engagement Letter was tabled.

**10. DUPAGE/WEST COOK REPORT**

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports for March 2025.

**12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**A. SAD NEWS**

**B. CURRENT DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2024-2025**

**C. CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING PATTERNS 2024-2025**

**D. PROJECTED DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2025-2026**

**E. PROJECTED STAFFING PATTERN 2025-2026**

**F. TRANSITION REPORTS**

**G. INITIAL REFERRALS**

**H. POLICE REPORTS**

There were five police calls at PAEC High School in March 2025.

**I. PAEC ACTIVITY FUND**

**J. NEW PRINCIPAL FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

**K. PAEC EVENTS**

**L. PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

**M. PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES**

**13. OTHER/ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD**

**A. FOIA REQUEST**

**B. MEETING RECAP**

- Geothermal Decision
- Next Geothermal Bid scheduled for the Fall
- First Student Transportation Extension
- Resolution to transfer Ed Fund monies to the Transportation Fund
- ESY
- Infinitec (for both staff and parents)

**14. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**PAYROLL AGENDA  
MARCH 2025**

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>FICA</b>	<b>RETIREMENT</b>	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<u>3/14/2025</u>	<u>3/14/2025</u>	<u>3/14/2025</u>	<u>3/14/2025</u>	<u>3/14/2025</u>
Education Fund	\$ 498,894.95	\$ 21,073.33	\$ 14,890.85	\$112,590.08	\$ 647,449.21
Building Fund	\$ 16,880.32	\$ 1,284.50	\$ 779.89	\$3,276.97	\$ 22,221.68
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 515,775.27</b>	<b>\$ 22,357.83</b>	<b>\$ 15,670.74</b>	<b>\$ 115,867.05</b>	<b>\$ 669,670.89</b>

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>FICA</b>	<b>RETIREMENT</b>	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<u>3/28/2025</u>	<u>3/28/2025</u>	<u>3/28/2025</u>	<u>3/28/2025</u>	<u>3/28/2025</u>
Education Fund	\$ 496,374.30	\$ 21,185.56	\$ 14,925.47	\$121,349.04	\$ 653,834.37
Building Fund	\$ 16,547.06	\$ 1,259.05	\$ 764.48	\$3,484.63	\$ 22,055.22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 512,921.36</b>	<b>\$ 22,444.61</b>	<b>\$ 15,689.95</b>	<b>\$ 124,833.67</b>	<b>\$ 675,889.59</b>

**ACTION ITEM – PERSONNEL REPORT  
April 2025**

**A. Employment**

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Vaurice Patterson | Program Assistant |
| Effective Date:      | March 24, 2025    |
| Compensation:        | \$22,138          |
| 2. Thaibely Garcia   | Translator        |
| Effective Date:      | March 24, 2025    |
| Compensation:        | \$35 per hour     |
| 3. Ricky Prince Jr.  | Custodian         |
| Effective Date:      | April 2, 2025     |
| Compensation:        | \$32,800          |

**B. Resignations**

- |                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Aaron Washington   | 1:1 Program Assistant (Agency) |
| Resignation Date:     | March 24, 2025                 |
| 2. Angela Palafox     | Nurse                          |
| Resignation Date:     | February 10, 2025              |
| 3. Alexandra Kagan    | Social Worker (agency)         |
| Resignation Date:     | May 29, 2025                   |
| 4. Tanaijah Fileds    | Social Worker Intern           |
| Resignation Date:     | May 29, 2025                   |
| 5. Diana Stephens     | Social Worker (agency)         |
| Resignation Date:     | May 30, 2025                   |
| 6. Kelsey Thomas-Diaz | Social Worker (Agency)         |
| Resignation Date:     | May 29, 2025                   |
| 7. Juan Aguilar       | 1:1 Program Assistant (Agency) |
| Resignation Date:     | March 14, 2025                 |

**C. Transfers**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Fani Lee          | Occupational Therapist (District 93)        |
| Effective Date:      | April 7, 2025                               |
| Transfer from:       | PAEC Center                                 |
| 2. Vaurice Patterson | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-D88 |
| Effective Date:      | April 7, 2025                               |
| Transfer from:       | PAEC Elementary as Program Assistant        |
| 3. Tanaja Bowen      | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-D88 |
| Effective Date:      | April 7, 2025                               |
| Transfer from:       | PAEC Elementary (D93)                       |

**D. Terminations**

There are no terminations at this time.

**ACTION ITEM – CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS**  
**April 2025**

**A. Aya Healthcare**

- Kristine Campbell-Solak                      Social Worker  
Effective Date:                                      April 7, 2025  
Bill Rate:    \$85 per hour  
Location:    Proviso West-D209

**B. Delta T**

- Aaron Washington                              1:1 Program Assistant  
Effective Date:                                      March 21, 2025  
Bill Rate:    \$33 per hour  
Location:    PAEC Elementary-D88

**C. Amergis**

- Amanda Carroll-Schoiber                      Registered Nurse  
Effective Date:                                      April 8, 2025  
Bill Rate:    \$76 per hour  
Location:    PAEC Center

**D. Ahs Staffing**

- Kelly Raye     Occupational Therapist  
Effective Date:                                      2025-2026  
Bill Rate:    \$82 per hour  
Location:    Hillside (D93)

**E. Jelani Educational Services, LLC 2025-2026**

- Damian Antwine-Jelani
- Alexis Crawford
- Tremell Goins
- Liliana Mendoza

Location:    TBD

\$1,000.00 per case for completing cognitive & academic assessment

\$575 per case to complete a comprehensive executive functioning Assessment

\$800 per ADOS

\$175 per case for completion of an evaluation of social-emotional functioning & behavior rating scale

\$200 per Domain & Eligibility

\$100 per team meeting as needed



# April Upcoming Events

**9** PAEC Academy  
Dental visit

**9** Special Olympics-Soccer  
Away @ Hinsdale South -5pm

**11** PAEC Academy  
Tiger Day-Wear  
Orange/Black

**11** PAEC Programs  
1 Hour Late Start

**11** PAEC High School  
Senior Nacho Fundraiser

**12** Special Olympics-Soccer  
Area Teams Tournament  
@Sportsplex

**16** Special Olympics-Soccer  
Away @ Cove School  
-5:30pm

**16** PAEC Center  
Egg Hunt

**17** PAEC Academy  
Egg Hunt  
Wear Pastel Colors

**17** PAEC High School  
Senior Firehouse Subs  
Fundraiser

**17** PAEC Programs  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences & Principal Tea

**18** PAEC Programs  
No School

**22** PAEC Academy  
Baseball Day

**23** PAEC Academy  
ABC Countdown  
to Last Day of School

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Amell Ramadan



**SPEECH/LANGUAGE  
THERAPIST**

**MARCH 2025**

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR PAEC OUT IN ITS MEMBER DISTRICT FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS. I HAVE ENJOYED WORKING ALONGSIDE MY FELLOW PAEC EMPLOYEES AND MY DISTRICT TEAM.

### **WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

I LOVE MY JOB AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST. MY JOB IS EXTREMELY REWARDING AS I GET TO SEE MY STUDENTS COMMUNICATION IMPROVE THROUGH THE THERAPY I PROVIDE. I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO SEE MY STUDENTS!

### **WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

MY ADVICE TO OTHERS TO EXCEL IN THEIR POSITION IS TO ALWAYS CONSIDER TRYING SOMETHING NEW TO GET BETTER RESULTS IN THERAPY, BUILD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS, COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR TEAM, AND ALWAYS KEEP LEARNING TO IMPROVE YOUR SELF!

### **TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT MYSELF IS THAT I AM MUSLIM AND COME FROM OF A LARGE FAMILY OF PALESTINIAN ROOTS. I HAVE 5 SIBLINGS, A TON OF AUNTS AND UNCLES AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF COUSINS THAT I STOPPED COUNTING!!

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Annie Koehler



**SPEECH/LANGUAGE  
THERAPIST**

**MARCH 2025**

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

*THIS IS MY THIRD YEAR AT PAEC.*

### **WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

*I ENJOY BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY STUDENTS AND SEEING THEM GROW. IT IS FUN TO GET TO KNOW THEIR UNIQUE PERSONALITIES WHILE FINDING CREATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT THEIR LANGUAGE NEEDS. THE STUDENTS ALWAYS MAKE ME SMILE AND NEVER FAIL TO TEACH ME SOMETHING NEW.*

### **WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

*BE FLEXIBLE AND COLLABORATE WITH THE TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF. TO BEST ADDRESS THE STUDENT'S NEEDS, YOU NEED TO BE READY TO ADJUST YOUR PLANS AND SOMETIMES INITIATE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT APPROACH.*

### **TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

*THIS IS MY SECOND CAREER. BEFORE BECOMING A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, I WORKED IN DIGITAL MARKETING AT A COMPANY THAT CREATED WEBSITES, MOBILE APPS, GAMES, AND VIDEOS. ALTHOUGH THAT WAS A FUN JOB, I AM SO GRATEFUL THAT I MADE THE SWITCH TO SPEECH THERAPY. I LOVE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH PEOPLE AND IT IS SO EXCITING TO SEE THEIR PROGRESS!*

## PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# Annamaria Iarrapino



PSYCHOLOGY INTERN  
MARCH 2025

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

*I WILL BE COMPLETING MY FIRST YEAR IN JUNE. I AM CURRENTLY AN INTERN AT PAEC UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF DR. CERMAK!*

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

*I ENJOY BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS WITH STUDENTS.*

### WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

*FOR ANY FUTURE INTERNS, DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A BREATH AND ENJOY WHERE YOU ARE NOW. THIS IS A PART OF YOUR JOURNEY AND IT'S OKAY IF YOU MAKE MISTAKES. EMBRACE THEM AND LEARN FROM THEM!*

### TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

*2 INTERESTING FACTS: I'VE BEEN TO 7 MLB BALLPARKS AND I AM 100% ITALIAN!*

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Michele Wolter



OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPIST  
MARCH 2025

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I STARTED AT PAEC IN AUGUST, 2016- SO 8 1/2 YEARS!

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

I ENJOY WORKING WITH THE STUDENTS...THEY KEEP ME LAUGHING AND THEY INSPIRE ME WITH ALL THEIR SPECIAL AND UNIQUE TALENTS AND ABILITIES. I LOVE SEEING HOW THEY GROW AND DEVELOP AND LEARN! I ALSO ENJOY WORKING WITH ALL THE DIFFERENT PROFESSIONALS AND LEARNING FROM EACH OTHERS EXPERTISE.

### WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

TAP IN TO THE EXPERTISE OF ALL THE PROFESSIONALS AROUND YOU. THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW TO LEARN! AND ENJOY THE CHILDREN! THAT IS WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR!

### TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT ME IS THAT I WAS BITTEN BY A POISONOUS COPPERHEAD SNAKE WHILE HIKING IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS! (YES- THERE ARE POISONOUS SNAKES IN ILLINOIS!) IT WAS PRETTY CLOSE TO A LIFE AND DEATH SITUATION BUT LUCKILY I LIVE TO TELL THE STORY!

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Christine Webb



TEACHER  
MARCH 2025

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

*I HAVE BEEN AN EC TEACHER AT PAEC SINCE AUGUST OF 1987*

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

*I ENJOY WATCHING THE STUDENTS GROW AND MAKE PROGRESS; THE IMPACT THAT I HAVE MADE ON STUDENTS' LIVES WHEN I ENCOUNTER THEM YEARS LATER OR THEY COME TO VISIT ME AT SCHOOL.*

### WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

*EACH PERSON LEARNS DIFFERENTLY, THEREFORE YOU MUST ADJUST THE WAY YOU TEACH TO FIT HOW THE STUDENT LEARNS. I WOULD SAY THAT BEING FLEXIBLE IS KEY, AND TRY TO LAUGH AND HAVE FUN WITH THE STUDENTS; IN ESSENCE, DO WHAT YOU CAN TO MAKE LEARNING FUN.*

### TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

*I'M NOT SURE ABOUT FUNNY, BUT SOME OF MY PASSIONS ARE READING, TRAVELING AND CRAFT FAIRS.*

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Lowela Alcedo



OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPIST  
MARCH 2025

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

*THIS IS MY SECOND YEAR WITH PAEC.*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

*I REALLY ENJOY WORKING WITH THE KIDS. SEEING THE WORLD IN THEIR PERSPECTIVE IS AN ANTIOXIDANT. NEVERMIND HYALURONIC ACID!!!*

**WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

*WE AIM TO BE OF SERVICE BUT NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM ALL.*

**TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

*THE 30 Y/O HAT I HAVE ON IS NOT THE OLDEST ITEM OF CLOTHING THAT I HAVE AND STILL USE.*

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Fontella Livsey



**PERMANENT  
SUB-TEACHER**

**MARCH 2025**

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

*I HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED AT PAEC FOR 10+ YEARS.*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

*WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT MY POSITION IS WATCHING THE GROWTH AND PROGRESS OF MY STUDENTS. IT'S A REWARDING EXPERIENCE.*

**WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

*IF I COULD OFFER ADVICE TO OTHERS TO EXCEL, IT WOULD BE DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, WHILE YOU CAN. DO YOUR JOB AND DO IT WELL. REMEMBER IT'S JUST NICE TO BE NICE.*

**TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

*SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT ME IS THAT I LOVE MUSIC. I CAN FIND A SONG RELATABLE TO ANY SITUATION!*

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Michael Woodard



**COURIER/  
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

**MARCH 2025**

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

*I HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED AT PAEC FOR 13 YEARS.*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

*I ENJOY WORKING WITH MY COWORKERS AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS.*

**WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

*IF I COULD OFFER ADVICE, IT WOULD BE TO JUST DO YOUR JOB AND BE PUNCTUAL. MOST IMPORTANTLY, MIND YOUR BUSINESS!*

**TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

*I PLAYED FIVE YEARS IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND HAVE MY FACE ON A BASEBALL CARD. ALSO, I LOVE COMEDY SHOWS AND ENJOY SEEING PEOPLE HAVE FUN AND LAUGH.*

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Monette Carlos



**SOCIAL WORKER**  
**MARCH 2025**

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

*I HAVE BEEN AT PAEC SINCE AUGUST OF 2001, ABOUT 24 YEARS.*

### **WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

*THE BEST PART ABOUT WORKING WITH PRESCHOOLERS IS THE CHANCE TO PLAY, HAVE FUN, AND EMBRACE MY INNER CHILD. I CAN BE AS GOOFY AS I WANT, AND THEY DON'T MIND IT ONE BIT!*

### **WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

*I WOULD SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND CO-WORKERS. ONCE YOU'VE EARNED THEIR RESPECT, COLLABORATION BECOMES MUCH EASIER. STAYING ORGANIZED AND MANAGING YOUR TIME EFFECTIVELY IS CRUCIAL. BE FLEXIBLE, AS THINGS WON'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED. AND FINALLY, SET BOUNDARIES TO MAINTAIN YOUR WELL-BEING. AND DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF BECAUSE IT TAKES TIME TO MASTER ALL OF THIS.*

### **TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

*MY KIDS ALWAYS TELL ME I'M CLUMSY. THEY TEASE ME BECAUSE I ALWAYS FALL/TRIP IN AREAS WHERE NO ONE ELSE DOES.*

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Kirk Whitfield



**PERMANENT  
SUB-TEACHER  
MARCH 2025**

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

*THIS IS MY ELEVENTH YEAR WORKING HERE AT PAEC.*

### **WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

*I ENJOY WORKING WITH DIVERSE LEARNERS, AND SEEING THEM PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.*

### **WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

*TRYING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES WITH STUDENTS CAN SHOW YOU WHERE THEIR INTERESTS LIE. THESE INTERESTS CAN THEN BE USED AS REWARDS FOR EXHIBITING TARGET BEHAVIORS, AS WELL AS A BASIS FOR MAKING LESSONS ENGAGING.*

### **TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

*ONE DAY WHEN I WAS 4 YEARS OLD, I LOCKED MY DAD OUT OF THE HOUSE. FRANTICALLY, HE WAS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR, TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO ME HOW TO UNLOCK, BUT I WENT TO THE REFRIGERATOR INSTEAD. MY DAD SAID THAT I THEN STARTED EATING RAW SAUSAGE PATTIES, BECAUSE I THOUGHT THEY WERE COOKIES.*

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Debbie Eyasu



TEACHER  
MARCH 2025

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE BEEN AT PAEC FOR 18 YEARS.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

I TRULY ENJOY SEEING MY STUDENTS HAPPY. IT BRINGS ME JOY TO KNOW THAT I'M CREATING A SAFE, WELCOMING SPACE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD. AS A PARENT OF A CHILD WITH AUTISM, I KNOW FIRSTHAND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR OUR CHILDREN TO BE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THEM AND HAVE THE PATIENCE TO SUPPORT THEM. UNFORTUNATELY, NOT EVERYONE DOES. I FEEL INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH THAT PATIENCE. IT GIVES OTHER PARENTS PEACE OF MIND, KNOWING THEIR CHILD WILL BE TREATED WITH CARE AND RESPECT WHEN THEY'RE AWAY FROM HOME. IF ONE OF MY STUDENTS IS UPSET OR HAVING A ROUGH DAY, I ALWAYS MAKE SURE THEY'RE OKAY BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE BUILDING. THAT KIND OF CARE MATTERS—IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

### WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

I WOULD SAY THIS: ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS WE CARE FOR ARE IN OUR LIVES FOR A REASON. BE PATIENT, AND TRULY TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY NEED FROM US. OUR ROLE ISN'T ABOUT ASSERTING AUTHORITY—IT'S ABOUT HELPING STUDENTS NAVIGATE THE WORLD IN THE BODIES AND MINDS THAT GOD GAVE THEM, WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING.

AT TIMES, IT MAY LOOK LIKE A TEACHER IS BEING "TOO SOFT" ON A STUDENT, WHEN IN REALITY, WE'RE USING OUR TRAINING IN DE-ESCALATION STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT AND CALM THEM. TRUE STRENGTH ISN'T IN DOMINATING A STUDENT—IT'S IN SHOWING RESTRAINT, EMPATHY, AND THE ABILITY TO REMAIN CALM IN THE FACE OF DYSREGULATION. THAT'S HOW WE HELP THEM REACH A PLACE OF STABILITY.

### TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I WRITE JOKES AND HOPE TO SELL THEM TO STAND-UP COMEDIANS ONE DAY—I ABSOLUTELY LOVE IMPROV AND ANYTHING THAT GETS PEOPLE LAUGHING. I'VE ALSO WRITTEN CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND PLAN TO PUBLISH THEM SOON. ANOTHER FUNNY THING: I REGULARLY HAVE FULL CONVERSATIONS WITH MYSELF IN THE MIRROR LIKE A TOTAL WEIRDO—BUT HEY, AT LEAST I ALWAYS GET THE RESPONSE I WANT! OH, AND FUN FACT: I DON'T EAT PORK. AND I LIVE BY MY OWN PERSONAL MOTTO: "I TRUST YOU... UNTIL I DON'T!"

# PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## June Thomas



**BEHAVIOR  
INTERVENTION  
MARCH 2025**

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?**

*I HAVE BEEN WITH PAEC GOING ON 30 YEARS, IN AUGUST.*

### **WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?**

*I FEEL MY PATIENCE, EMPATHY, AND STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELPED ME TO BUILD SKILLS, TRUST AND A GOOD RAPPORT WITH BOTH CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS. I AM VERY COMMITTED TO THINKING POSITIVELY AND BRINGING A GREAT IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S LIVES AND BELIEVE THAT MY KNOWLEDGE AND BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION WILL SHOW THAT MY DEDICATION WILL ALIGN PERFECTLY WITH THE VALUES OF THIS ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.*

### **WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?**

*I BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN YOUR ROLE AND IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND PREPARE YOURSELF FOR INTERACTIONS AND GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AT WORK. I BELIEVE IN BEING OPEN-MINDED WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND HONEST. SO THAT EVERYTHING CAN WORK SMOOTHLY WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. TEAMWORK IS THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS ON THE SAME PAGE WITH EACH OTHER.*

*I BELIEVE IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND MAINTAINING A POSITIVE, PROFESSIONAL ROLE IN MY JOB. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT WHEN DEALING WITH STUDENTS AND PARENTS, IT CAN BE VERY CHALLENGING AT TIMES, BUT YOU MUST ALWAYS STAY PROFESSIONAL NO MATTER WHAT. BUT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO ME IS TO BE CONFIDENT IN WHATEVER YOU ARE DOING.*

### **TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

*I AM A VERY OUTGOING PERSON, LOVING AND KIND, I AM A PERSON WHO ENJOYS TALKING WITH PEOPLE AND JUST LISTENING AND NOT PASSING JUDGMENT ON ANYONE. I LOVE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, WE HAVE BUILT A SOLID FOUNDATION.*

# PAEC Academy School Spirit Day



# PAEC Academy PAEC Tigers win 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



# PAEC Academy Green River Float Day



# PAEC Academy - Breakfast Day



# PAEC Academy Imagination Theater



# PAEC Academy Talent Show



# PAEC Academy Talent Show



# PAEC Academy Talent Show



# PAEC Academy – Music Class



# PAEC Academy – Soccer Game



# PAEC Academy – Baskets Raffle



# PAEC Academy – The Jungle Book Play



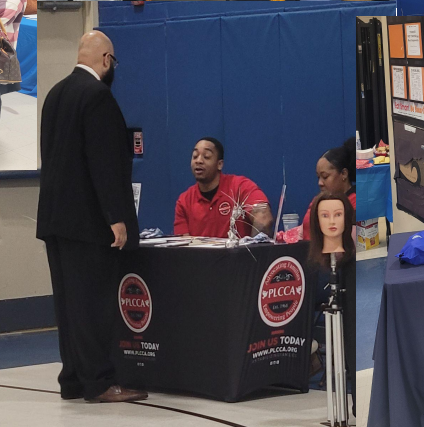
# PAEC Academy Perfect Attendance during February



# PAEC Academy 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Pass the Constitution Test!



## Next Step: **GRADUATION!**





#photofmyday

#photofmyday



Mayor Harvey-Bellwood

Mr. Stafford-D88  
Transportation Director



Mayor Hoskins-Forest Park



Mayor Serpico-Melrose Park

## **PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES FROM MARCH 2025**

### **Business Department: Dr. Paul Starck-King**

- Treasurer's Report
- Amended Budget Update
- HVAC (Geothermal) Update
- Food Service Update
- Transportation Update
- Roof Project Update
- Negotiations
- Public Act 103-0644

### **IT Department**

**No Major Updates This Month.** An email was sent to the PAEC Leadership Team for their request for the IT Budget for the 2025-2026 year. Currently, awaiting responses to be submitted by the second week of April to allow for proper planning and allocation. The requests should cover any hardware or items that IT typically manages in addition to Chromebooks, Laptops, iPads, Chargers, and Bags. The department has also requested student and staff counts.

### **Buildings and Grounds Department**

KCW serviced the package unit in room 153 due to no heat. Lovitt Blind replaced all the blinds in D POD at PAEC Center. Metro Fence replaced the slide gate near the Harrison parking lot exit. The kitchen refrigerator failed and was replaced with a new one. KCW serviced the package unit in EC room 162. Midcity Plumbing unclogged the kitchen sink at PAEC Academy. ITR Systems replaced a call switch for the intercom in the isolation room at the High School. Fox Valley Fire & Safety performed our annual Ansul single tank system inspection & sprinkler inspection.

### **Human Resources**

- Human Resources is currently transitioning, and Ms. McDaniel, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Perkins, and Mrs. Latham have been assisting with ensuring things are getting done.
- Managed and scheduled 7 background checks and/or onboarding (2 direct hires) and processed 7 terminations.
- Participated in the Business Department Monthly meeting.
- Mrs. Latham and Ms. McDaniel attended the EBC Final Renewal Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.
- Mrs. Latham, Mrs. Carter, and Ms. McDaniel participated in the ISBE Employment Information System Spring 2025 Webinar on Employment/Position Updates and Noncertified Staff FTE
- Currently, in the process of utilizing Verifent for onboarding and reference reviews.
- PAEC is planning to attend the IASPA virtual job fair on May 15, 2025



## **PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES FROM MARCH 2025**

### **PAEC Academy at Divine Infant**

March arrived at PAEC Academy with lots of activities and celebrations.

- 2 new students joined the PAEC Academy roster, bringing the total to 75
- ACCESS Testing was completed! (Thanks to Ms. Inga for her assistance!)
- 1 of our mainstream students will go back to his home school full-time after Spring Break
- Staff and students showed up during School Spirit Day!
- The PAEC Tigers basketball team won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the State level! WOOHOO!!!!
- Imagination Theater visited PAEC Academy and did a great performance, where students engaged and were eager to participate
- The Talent Show was a GREAT SUCCESS...all students did an awesome job and we had a full house!
- Township of Proviso donated incentives to the Talent Show participants and staff at a later date!
- All students and staff enjoyed Green River Floats!
- Staff had the monthly breakfast (and lunch!) courtesy of Ms. Ryan and Ms. Gray
- PAEC Tigers won their first soccer game.
- Students enjoyed their field trip to Theater Tivoli to see The Jungle Book
- Raffle winners went home happy with their baskets!

### **PAEC Early Childhood**

The month of March was busy and long, but it flew by in the Early Childhood program. The March themes in the EC program included Animals and the Weather, as well as the introduction to the Spring season. The units within the themes included St. Patrick's Day. The vocabulary that was targeted included different states of the weather during spring, flowers, rainbows, leprechauns, the pot of gold, and rabbits. We had our picture retakes on March 13th. The dentist came on March 18th and 19th. Originally, they were only going to visit on 3/19/25 but they had to add an extra day because so many EC students signed up to be checked. The dentists were able to check the students' dental health, apply fluoride, and provide dental forms that meet the school's dental health form requirements.

We also celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st, and the students and staff came to school wearing silly socks and T-shirts in support of the large and wonderful population that has the diagnosis of Down Syndrome. The third quarter ended on March 19th, so progress reports were sent home by March 27th.

We had many kindergarten placement meetings this month, and 6 of the Jefferson students will be returning to the school district to attend kindergarten in their home school!

The academic targets for March were the following:

First 3 weeks of the month, the students focused on:

COLORS: Yellow, Red, Blue

SHAPES: Triangle and Rectangle

LETTERS: O, U, R

NUMBERS: 0 and 11

In the fourth week, all the classes reviewed the learning targets.

### PAEC Therapeutic Day Elementary School

- Staff/Student
  - Current enrollment- 51 students (1 diagnostic placement)
  - Staffing- 3 vacancies (three permanent sub-teachers)
- Transition Report
  - District 87- 5
  - District 88- 2
  - District 91- 0
  - District 92- 0
  - District 93- 0
  - 2 students transitioned full-time this month (87, 88)
- Monthly Update:
  - Students did an amazing job pushing through the long stretch of March and getting testing going. Testing is almost complete, just fifth grade and makeups left after break.
  - Students finished the basketball season 6-0. Go Cougars!
  - PLCCA has been hard at work with the students. They have worked on civics and have also engaged in STEM and art projects.
- Behavior Management:
  - RTOs- 0
  - Police/First Responder Calls- 0
- Upcoming events:
  - Soccer to start 4/7



## **PAEC Therapeutic Day High School**

### **Academics**

The quarter ended on March 7, and eleven students made the honor roll, along with six students for perfect attendance. The students are excited that we began the fourth quarter on March 10, and graduation is quickly approaching. Finally, the students, staff, and the IT department are prepared for the ACT and Pre-ACT Testing in April. The test window for ACT is April 8 through April 18. The test window for Pre-ACT is April 14 through April 25. Our Spring MAP Assessment will be from April 21 through May 2.

### **Happenings**

Ms. Pirrello organized the annual Erin’s Law Presentation Assembly by Imagination Theater for the district on March 6.

Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Loving did a fabulous job preparing for the Post-Secondary Fair on Friday, March 21. All the students participated and engaged in questions and activities with the guests who came. Ms. Lindsey set aside time for our senior families and students to ask questions and become more aware of options for after high school, as well as in our community.

Ms. Ginley did a lesson on plaster masks. The students were excited to explain the process and steps they took to have a final product to design.



### **Transitioning Students**

The student behavior levels, attendance, and grades are monitored weekly to ensure that they can maintain the mainstream criteria set up for the PAEC Program. One student successfully transitioned to a half-day schedule back to Proviso East on March 17.

Physical Management	1
Police Calls	5
Ambulance	4
Restorative Meeting	12

### **24-25 Current Enrollment**

81 Students

### **PAEC Therapeutic Day High School Vocational Program**

PAEC Work Training Program and Vocational Program Enrollments:

- After School Janitorial: 4 students
- Garden/Hilton Hotels: 6 students
- Fire House Subs: 1 student
- RR Trade School: 8 students
- Financial Literacy: 7 students
- West40 Food Pantry: 3 students

We were able to add two more students to the food pantry volunteering program taking place at West40 on Wednesday afternoons.

We hosted our Postsecondary Options and Career Fair this month and had a phenomenal turnout! We were fortunate to have:

- Cook County Job Center of Maywood
- Triton Community College/Triton SEED Program
- DRS-Westchester Office
- Mrs. Roberts Beauty Academy
- PLCCA
- US Navy
- US Marine Corp
- US Army
- JobCorp
- Lincoln Tech
- The Chicago Lighthouse
- CISCO
- UTI
- Bricklayers Union
- Morton Community College

- UCP Seguin
- Personal Trainer, Willie Harris
- Lawyer, Jose Gallardo
- West 40

Mr. Loving is working on scheduling the Food Handlers Certificate training that we will be hosting at PAEC High School during the day for all interested students. This certificate will help our students become more qualified candidates for local work opportunities. Once the training is completed, we will start a new worksite at Smoothie King.

**PAEC Center School**

- March was a busy month!
- On March 6th, our High School students participated in Erin’s Law/Imagination Theatre.
- We had a school-wide celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Green River Floats were provided to the students to help celebrate! A fun day was had by all.
- On March 19th, we celebrated Women’s History Month by honoring women in the Government.
- Down’s Syndrome Day was on March 21st. Staff and students were encouraged to wear crazy socks/hair to help commemorate this day!
- DLM started in earnest. Students and teachers began testing the students as soon as the window opened.
- FAST testing started and ended with SANDI testing ready to start when we return from Spring break.
- ACCESS testing ended this month as well.
- Quarterlies reports were sent home on the 19th.
- Teacher observations came to a conclusion this month.
- Budget time for the school year 2025-26 has started!

**PAEC Center School Vocational/Transition Program**

We currently have 3 students employed competitively. Unemployed students are directed to apply for competitive employment online, in person, or through direct contact with employers. These students are monitored by Vocational Coordinator or Transition Staff via in-person, one-on-one meetings, emails, and/or text messaging. When students apply for competitive employment on their own, they are instructed to send me screenshots of completed applications. We also keep records of applications, students complete with me and/or the staff.

**Students who are currently employed are on the chart below:**

	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Job</b>
1	Jewel	20 hours	Bagger/Stocker
2	Goodwill	15-20 hours per week	Store Clerk

3	Jewel	Part Time	Bagger
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Students volunteer for 6 volunteer job sites this 2024-25 school year, where students are being trained on job skills that will increase their job readiness. We are still looking to increase the number of sites we have, with a hopeful increase in staff.

We are training our Transition students to complete job tasks, answer mock interview questions, complete mock job applications, and more. I set up individual meetings with these students. We are practicing mock interviews and completing mock applications. Ensuring IDs have not expired, or get renewed in a timely manner. Students are completing live applications, which we are currently waiting to hear from employers as well as contacting employers to follow up on our applications.

We are working hard to obtain competitive employment for our students. We have had some interviews and have been unsuccessful in obtaining employment. We are continuing to interview and follow up with employers to get our students hired.

**PAEC Behavior Intervention Team**

The PAEC Behavior Intervention Team continues to provide behavioral support and interventions to reduce undesired behaviors within the Proviso Township school districts.

The Elementary Behavior Coaches are required to implement the 8-Week Step Interventions & Support Curriculum, developed based on evidence-based data, and documenting.

**Total number of PAEC Behavior Intervention Team: 15**

**Active: 15**

**Projected total number for 2025/2026 Academic Year is (16)**

The coordinator will begin interviewing for the open position during the summer months

Proviso East: 3

Proviso West: 4 (current number is 3)

District 87: 2

Floating Coaches (PAEC Academy, District 88, District 93, District 92, District 87): 7

**There were a total of 0 individual student referrals in March.**

**There were a total of 0 classroom referrals submitted in March.**

**District 803 - PAEC Academy:**

One Coach continues to provide additional support to teachers and personnel regarding undesired behaviors within the classrooms.

**District 87** - Jefferson Primary | Sunnyside Intermediate | Whittier Primary | Riley Intermediate | Northlake Middle School | MacArthur Middle School

**Jefferson:**

There are currently 3 Coaches who continue to provide ongoing support for teachers, students, and personnel for previous assignments that have been completed.

*Kindergarten Referral:* A Coach has been assigned to this student, working collaboratively with the teacher to improve excessive and extreme behaviors. The behaviors observed were visible within the classroom setting, including shutting down, refusal, shouting, and temper tantrums. The Coach has implemented a premack principle “first/then” intervention to improve desired behaviors based on preferred items.

*First Grade Referral:* A Coach has been assigned to this student due to highly defiant and avoidant behaviors. The Coach is collaborating with the teacher to ensure a plan that includes a Token Economy Board.

**Whittier:**

*Kindergarten Referral:* The Teacher requested ongoing support for a Coach within the class. The assigned Coach continues to provide ongoing data collection while implementing interventions such as scheduled sensory breaks, prompting, positive reinforcement, and a token economy system.

**Riley Intermediate:**

*Fourth Grade Referral:* A Coach has been assigned to the student due to highly inappropriate and excessive outbursts. The Coach is working with the teacher to implement a reward system to improve behaviors. The Special Ed Coordinator has now requested a full day of support to provide daily support.

**District 92** - Lindop School

*Pre-K Referral:* The Coach has transitioned out of the classroom due to an increase in desired behaviors among the students. The Coach still provides weekly support when needed.

*Kindergarten Referral 2:* A Coach continues to work with an assigned student who has exhibited an increase in social/emotional behaviors, which has caused an extreme disruption within the class environment.

**District 88** - Lincoln Primary | Grant Primary | Grant Elementary | Lincoln Elementary | McKinley Elementary | Thurgood Marshall Elementary | Roosevelt Middle School

**Lincoln Elementary:**

*First Grade Referral:* The Coach continues implementing interventions such as mild consequences (stop and think chair), verbal praise, token economy (Lincoln bucks/prizes), and antecedent modifications (rearranging desks). It is reported that the student’s behavior has improved. Due to the teacher’s request for ongoing support, the Coach remains in the class to assist with minimal behavioral disruptions.

*3rd Grade Referral:* A Coach was assigned to conduct a full class and individual student intervention. The Coach is working directly with the teacher to provide refreshers on classroom management and incorporating a full class reward system.

**McKinley Elementary:**

*1 Second Grade Referral:* The assigned Coach continues working in tandem with the teacher and

classroom aide to provide classroom management techniques. This is due to an increase in desired behavior from the individual student referral.

*5th Grade Referral:* The 5th grade student has been assigned to a Coach to assist him directly with managing emotions, impulse control, and maintaining appropriate relationships with peers.

**Thurgood Marshall Elementary:**

*Kindergarten Referral:* The assigned student has been transferred to PAEC Elementary. The Coach has begun working with another student within the classroom due to extremely disruptive behaviors.

**Roosevelt Middle School:**

*(2) Seventh Grade Referrals:* A Coach has been assigned to both students within the classroom to enhance work performance, impulse control, disrespect, and peer relationships. The Coach collaborates with the math teacher to implement reward systems.

**District 93 - Hillside Elementary**

*3 Third Grade Classroom Referrals:* With the assistance of a Coach, the Coordinator has been working collaboratively with one 3rd grade class to reduce extremely disruptive behavior by implementing a weekly class incentive system and maintaining antecedent modifications within the class setting. The Coordinator will be transitioning to the second class after spring break.

*Kindergarten Classroom Referral:* The Coordinator continues actively supporting within the class to improve the academic environment by providing the teacher with evidence-based interventions to decrease extremely disruptive behaviors among one individual student. The Coordinator, teacher, and PA have developed and implemented a premack principle system based on the students' desire for breaks.

**District 209 - Proviso East High School | Proviso West High School | Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy**

There are currently a total of 6 Behavior Interventionists assigned to 209; 3 are assigned to East and 3 are assigned to West. Interventionists are now assigned to Deans, who work directly under Grade Level Principals.

Proviso West duties consist of assisting with lunchroom monitoring based on procedures to reduce student physical and verbal altercations among one another. The Interventionist also supports within the halls and Reset Rooms to pass out late passes and intervene with students to limit tardiness and truancy.

**PAEC OT/PT Department**

**Activities of the department:**

1. The AT Team continues to conduct SETT meetings to develop appropriate assistive technology to address the educational needs of their struggling students, including students' placements outside the cooperative.
2. The AT Team attended a staff meeting on 3-05-25 in person and via Zoom from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.
3. The Lead OT/PT/AT and AT SLP attending the Infinitic West Coalition meeting held at CASE on 3-05-25 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The meeting's discussion began with a discussion about AI.

4. On 3-14-25, the Lead OT/PT/AT met with PAEC Center Cross Categorical Adaptive Teachers to discuss options for equipment for PAEC Center B Pod after beginning the project of turning the B Pod into a more sensory exploration for students.
5. The Lead OT/PT/AT continues participating in the Prom/Special Events Committee Meeting for PAEC Center on 3-14-25 via Google Meet from 8:00 - 8:30 AM.
6. The OT/PT/AT Lead and SLP Lead met with representatives from Spotter on 03-19-25 to discuss the performance of current contracted therapists.
7. The OT/PT Department attended a staff meeting on 3-20-25 in person and via Zoom from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm in the PAEC Center Board Room. This meeting included an article review titled: [Culturally Adapting an Occupational Therapy Intervention for Black American Autistic Communities](#) by Faith Johnson, MOT, OTR/L.
8. The Lead OT/PT/AT met with a representative from Fun and Function via Zoom on 3-06-25 & 3-24-25 to discuss equipment for use in the PAEC Center B Pod. Reviewed previous plans and discussed other options for equipment.
9. There were no Clinics this month for Wheelchairs and Orthotics. Therapists are handling vendor visits individually.
10. The OT/PT/AT Lead is currently working on budgeting and FTEs for staff for the next school year.
11. Some equipment that came in the last month that was ordered was a Bite Switch. See pictures below



### **PAEC Psychology Department**

Ms. Annette Garcia, a 2nd-year practicum student from The Chicago School for Professional Psychology, has accepted an offer to complete her year-long internship with Dr. Michael Cermak. This is the final step Ms. Garcia will need to complete before becoming a full-time school psychologist.

Ms. Alexia Flores, a 2nd-year doctoral candidate practicum student from The Chicago School for Professional Psychology, has accepted placement with PAEC to complete her advanced clinical

practicum with Dr. Michael Cermak. Ms. Flores will be working with students throughout the co-operative to increase her clinical skills before she proceeds to her doctoral internship.

Ms. Dayle Ashley-Harding, Early Childhood Psychologist, has conducted several ADOS evaluations for students in PAEC programs and in member districts. She has helped our practicum students and interns learn the process of ADOS assessments through observation.

Dr. Michael Cermak has been nominated as President-Elect of the Illinois School Psychology Association. Members will be voting until mid-April, with election results to come by the end of April. If elected, Dr. Cermak will serve as President-Elect for 1 year, President for 1 year, and Immediate Past-President for 1 year for a full 3-year term as the president of the association.

### **PAEC Social Work Department**

1. Ms. Nicole Pena, MSW (PAEC School Social Worker-PAEC Academy) has facilitated small/whole classroom groups and individual sessions and has focused on the following topics: Self-Advocacy Strategies, Practicing Life Scenarios in Group Circles, and Identifying Emotions. Ms. Pena has collaborated and facilitated various student groups (i.e., Super Groups, Weekly Lunch Groups, etc.) with other related service personnel (i.e., SLP and OT). Ms. Pena provides daily check-ins/check-outs and daily push-in groups with PAEC Academy students. Additionally, Ms. Pena assisted Ms. Schmitt with handing out awards/incentives to students with perfect attendance for the Month of February 2025.
2. Ms. Dianna Stephens, LCSW, and Ms. Temika Peace, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-Proviso East High School) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and continue to develop strategies to increase student attendance and promote more student engagement in after-school programs. Additionally, Ms. Temika Peace created a student Care Closet alongside the student Clothing Closet, with skin care, hair care, and other hygiene products that were donated.
3. Ms. Glenda Liboy, MSW (PAEC School Social Worker-Proviso West High School), continues to provide individual/small group social work sessions to students on her caseload at Proviso West High School, as well as attending annual review and re-evaluation meetings. Ms. Liboy has attended professional development training on Safety and Professional Relationship Coaching Outcomes. Additionally, Ms. Liboy has been collaborating with Dr. Thomas in obtaining a possible In-Service speaker for the 2025-26 school year.
4. Ms. Monette Carlos-Barnes (PAEC School Worker-PAEC E.C. Program) has been working with the children in her social skills group on the following topics: following directions and identifying feelings of being tired and hungry. Ms. Carlos also, had dropped off donations from the E.C. program's kindness month food drive to the Westchester Food Pantry and had her picture posted on the Westchester Food Pantry's Facebook page. Ms. Carlos assisted the PAEC E.C. Program with Down Syndrome Awareness, with everyone wearing "crazy socks".
5. Mr. Patrick Rossi, LCSW and Ms. Niane Serrano, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Elementary) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the PAEC Elementary Students, incorporating good sportsmanship, dealing with angry feelings, utilizing mindfulness, as well as utilizing exercise/sports to manage emotions during social skills groups. Both social workers continually contact parents to address care coordination and to provide additional resource information for parents to consider.

6. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW, Ms. Donna Kuchera, MSW, Ms. Kelsey Thomas-Diaz, MSW, Ms. Alexandra Kagan, MSW and Ms. Tanajiah Fields (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School and School Social Work Intern) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and have been working with the students on the following: student crisis intervention/accountability for behaviors/actions, social media etiquette, self-awareness skills, personal boundaries, conflict resolution, consequences of drug/alcohol use/abuse and utilizing community resources.
7. Ms. Jill Collins, MSW and Ms. Anna Landmeier, LCSW, and Ms. Ali Kagan, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Center School) have been participating in the coordination and planning of the upcoming April Events, PAEC Center Prom/Graduation Ceremony, and End of the Year Events. Additionally, they have been providing the following topics and themed activities in their classroom social work groups: Strengths/Weaknesses; Coping Strategies; Advocacy; Mindfulness; Likes vs. Dislikes; Needs vs. Wants; Social Skills; Gratitude; Regulation of Emotions; and Exploring Thoughts and Feelings. Additionally, Ms. Landmeier has coordinated with the PAEC Speech Department for a mid-tech communication device with an overlay of core emotions/feelings to use when working with students.
8. Ms. Kenya Dockens and Ms. Tanajiah Fields (PAEC School Social Worker and School Social Work Intern-Hillside School) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the students at Hillside School. Additionally during the month of March, Ms. Dockens attended the Hillside Building Safety committee Meeting and facilitated the New Mentor Subs on March 7 and 21.
9. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W., (PAEC Lead School Social Worker) has been actively setting up interviews with school social work candidates for hire for the 2025-26 school year. Additionally, Ms. Pirrello and Ms. Monette Carlos-Barnes collaboratively planned, scheduled, and helped facilitate the "Imagination Theatre" Erin's Law Student Assemblies, which occurred on Thursday, March 6, 2025. PAEC High School, PAEC Elementary, and PAEC Center High School students attended the assemblies throughout the school day. Each school program sent out Opt Out letters home to parents prior to the events.
10. The next PAEC School Social Work Department Meeting and In-Service is scheduled:
  - Date: Friday, April 25, 2025
  - Time: 10am-1:00pm
  - Topic: Leveraging Anime Narratives in Play Therapy
  - Speaker: Gian Ramos Monserrate, MD
  - Time: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm
  - Topic: PAEC School Social Work Dept. Meeting

### **PAEC Speech/Language Department**

- The Lead SLP attended a Northern IL Speech/Language Coordinators meeting on March 14th.
- A subcommittee to discuss eligibility/dismissal criteria for speech/language is being created, and the Lead SLP will be part of this committee to share this knowledge and resource with PAEC and member districts.
- The Lead SLP is working with the SLPs to collect caseload/workload information to use in making assignments for the upcoming school year.

- The Lead SLP sent out a Google form to the department to determine interest in working during ESY.

### **PAEC Special Olympics**

Soccer started on 2/19/2025 for our Academy, High School, and Individual skills. Our PAEC Academy Tigers had their first game on 3/19 against Cicero Unity. They won their game. Attached is a picture of the Tigers after their win.

The following is our current schedule of games:

4/9/2025

Away vs. Hinsdale South (7401 Clarendon Hills Rd, Darien) at 5 pm (High School Team only)

4/12/2025

Area Teams Tournament at Sportsplex (1400 Foundry Street, St. Charles), game times dependent upon team

4/16/2025

Away vs. Cove School (350 Lee Rd, Northbrook, IL 60062) at 5:30 pm

5/18/2025

State Qualifying Tournament at Hinsdale South HS (7401 Clarendon Hills Rd, Darien)-details to follow

We are excited for the upcoming season.



