



PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

"QUALITY EDUCATION WITH CARE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT".

PAEC CENTER BOARDROOM - 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **AUDIT PRESENTATION BY BAKER TILLY**
3. **CLOSED SESSION**
4. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**
5. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
None
6. **APPROVAL OF GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**
7. **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**
8. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. **PRESS PLUS 120 - 3RD AND FINAL READING**
9. **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

The Executive Board meeting was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026. Those present included: Dr. Nicole Spatafore and Ms. Irene Daciuk from District # 87, Ms. Rosalind Banks from District # 88, Dr. Antonia Hill from District # 93, and Mrs. Vanessa Schmitt from District #209.

Mr. Nick Cavalier from Baker Tilly presented the audit results.

Mr. Michael James, Ms. April Cohen, Ms. LaShonda McDaniel, and Mrs. Cecy Mendoza-Jurek from PAEC Administration was also present.

The Executive Board reviewed and recommended approval of action items on the agenda, and tabled the resignation of a direct 1:1 hire pending resolution for next Tuesday.

Dr. Antonia Hill from District #93 will be the Executive Board Representative for the Governing Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. The following items were discussed:

- **Treasurer's Report (January 2026)** - The committee reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's Report for January, including an overview of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances.
- **Geothermal Tax Consultant Update** - The committee was informed that **Alliant's proposal** to perform the work necessary to secure tax rebates for the geothermal project has been accepted.
- **Geothermal Budget Worksheet** - The geothermal budget worksheet was updated to reflect **Alliant's fees** associated with the tax rebate work.
- **Mid-Year Tuition Cost Sheets** - Mid-year tuition cost sheets were discussed. These are currently in progress and will be finalized once calculations and reviews are complete.
- **Audit Update** - The annual audit has been completed. Representatives from **Baker Tilly** will attend the upcoming Executive and Governing Board meetings to present the audit results.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT

- A. **CURRENT DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2025-2026**
- B. **CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING PATTERNS 2025-2026**
- C. **TRANSITION REPORTS**
- D. **INITIAL REFERRALS**
- E. **POLICE REPORTS**
There was 3 Police reports during the month of January.
- F. **PAEC ACTIVITY FUND**
- G. **PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES**
- H. **PAEC EVENTS**
- I. **POSSIBLE DONATIONS**
- J. **PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

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

13. MEETING RECAP

- 1) The Executive Board voted on and recommended Press Plus 120 to the Governing Board of Education.
- 2) Baker Tilly presented the audit to the Executive Board and will also be presenting to the Governing Board. Business Managers were encouraged to be present for the presentation.
- 3) Please encourage others to come out to see what our students have to share with the community.

14. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card from Mr. Loving

15. ADJOURNMENT

PAYROLL AGENDA
January 2026

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL	
	<u>1/15/2026</u>	<u>1/15/2026</u>	<u>1/15/2026</u>	<u>1/15/2026</u>	<u>1/15/2026</u>	
Education Fund	\$ 529,458.68	\$ 22,871.89	\$ 18,445.55	\$ 119,336.94	\$ 690,113.06	PAYROLL 01/15/26
Building Fund	\$ 19,559.87	\$ 1,488.20	\$ 1,089.50	\$ 4,100.58	\$ 26,238.15	
TOTALS	\$ 549,018.55	\$ 24,360.09	\$ 19,535.05	\$ 123,437.52	\$ 716,351.21	

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL	
	<u>1/30/2026</u>	<u>1/30/2026</u>	<u>1/30/2026</u>	<u>1/30/2026</u>	<u>1/30/2026</u>	
Education Fund	\$ 507,675.73	\$ 21,490.54	\$ 17,488.88	\$ 129,632.95	\$ 676,288.10	PAYROLL 01/30/26
Building Fund	\$ 18,505.68	\$ 1,407.58	\$ 1,030.77	\$ 4,350.23	\$ 25,294.26	
TOTALS	\$ 526,181.41	\$ 22,898.12	\$ 18,519.65	\$ 133,983.18	\$ 701,582.36	

Will be an Intermittent Leave, utilizing available sick, personal, and vacation days.

ACTION ITEM – CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS
February 2026

A. Pedia Staff

1. Melissa Gomez Hernandez	Psychologist
Effective Date:	February 17, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$105 per hour
Location:	Proviso East

B. Contractual Transfers

1. Sidra Ali	1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-D87
Effective Date:	December 19, 2025
Transfer from:	1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Academy)-D93

C. Contractual Terminations

There are no terminations at this time.

PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES FROM JANUARY 2026

PAEC Academy at Divine Infant

1) Academics

Academy has successfully completed the January FastBridge benchmark assessments. Many teachers are actively using this data to inform their professional growth goals and instructional planning. We are encouraged by the progress demonstrated by our students and look forward to reviewing and discussing these results alongside other current data points. This information will serve as one of several components used to help determine eligibility for Extended School Year (ESY) services.

During the month of February, instruction is focused on Black History Month, with an emphasis on exploring the contributions and lasting impact of key figures, inventors, and pioneers who have shaped our society. Students are engaging in meaningful learning experiences that highlight innovation, perseverance, and leadership. To further enrich this learning, the Academy will be hosting an Inventors' Day. Through this experience, students will collaborate to design, create, and experiment with various materials, mirroring the problem-solving processes of renowned inventors. This hands-on activity encourages creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork while helping students better understand how innovation has contributed to improving our world.

2) Festivities

In preparation for our Tigers advancing to Regionals, Academy hosted a spirited pep rally to energize and encourage our student athletes. The event brought together students and staff to celebrate the teams' hard work, dedication, and accomplishments.

On Sunday, January 12, both the White and Black teams competed in the Regional Tournament in Arlington Heights. We are proud to share that our team will be advancing to the State competition in March 2026 and are excited for the opportunity to represent the Academy at this level. Following their outstanding performance, both teams celebrated their success with a well-deserved pizza party in recognition of their commitment and teamwork.

In addition, preparations for the upcoming Talent Show are well underway. Practices are in full swing, and during lunch periods, performers are given the opportunity to take the stage and rehearse in front of their peers. These practice sessions help students build confidence, refine their performances, and prepare for a successful showcase.

3) Interesting Information

Feb. 5th - Black History Month -Wear Red, Black or Green colors

Feb. 6th - Inservice Day/No school for students

Feb. 11th - Make a Valentine's Day Card

Feb. 13th - Valentine's Day Celebrations/Wear Red or Pink

Feb. 16th - Presidents' Day/No School

Feb. 19th - Black History/Inventors Celebration

Feb. 24th - Basketball Practice - 3:00-4:30pm

4) Program Information

a. Student Count	69
b. Transitions	1 - One student began the transition to partial enrollment in

	Lindop 92 so they could receive instructional exposure.
c. Time Outs	0
d. Restraints	0
e. Hospitalizations	0
f. Police Involvement	0
g. Restorative Meetings	1

PAEC Early Childhood

Academics

This month the students studied the Creative Curriculum Winter clothing unit and learned about Dr. Martin Luther King. We also celebrated 100 Days of being in school on January 29, 2026 (click on links below).

- The weekly academic targets for January were the following:
 COLORS: White and Purple
 SHAPES: Heart and Circle
 LETTERS: C, Q, E, and J
 NUMBERS: 7 and 8

School Events

The Early Childhood program partnered with PAEC Center and we brought in Mr. Scott Ingerson from Twisticity Entertainment on January 21st to provide two 30 minute shows.

He enchanted the students with wonderful bubble making feats and engaged with them in a caring and magical way. (click on links below)

Student Count

There are 17 students in the two half day classrooms and 7 students in the full day EC Autism classroom.

Student Transitions

[There were no student transitions this month.](#)

<u>Physical Management</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Police Calls</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Ambulance</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Restorative Meeting</u>	<u>0</u>

EC enjoys the Bubble show on 1/21/26

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4iwr4iVXAkgwhEhE7>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jY66K6vrjBr7Yo636>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/s7YQP2XaE3Zj8UQc6>

Room 164 Celebrates 100 Days

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zsi8ZPy4rfsJfx5F7>

Room 162's AM and PM Session Celebrate 100 Days

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pb6CqFzW7AhJ5Zpg7>

Room 157 AM session Celebrates 100 Days

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CznagdPdYQTQ9AWC7>

Room 157 PM session Celebrates 100 Days

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jg2xh48PtnWLvQKY6>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/mfsSdoQLSaxpfqa89>

PAEC Therapeutic Day Elementary School

PAEC Elementary

Amina Payne, Principal

-Projected enrollment numbers

Students 40 actual, Projected 40



Welcome Back! It is extremely important to practice routines and procedures when returning from a school break, especially for students with emotional disabilities and behavioral challenges. Students at PAEC Elementary School used the month of January to focus on re-establishing classroom and school routines. For students who experience emotional dysregulation and behavioral difficulties, predictable routines provide essential structure and security. When students know what to expect during the school day, it significantly reduces anxiety, minimizes behavioral triggers, and helps them feel safe and in control. This intentional focus on routine restoration supports emotional regulation and creates the stable, predictable environment these students need to be successful both academically and behaviorally.



Remote Learning is Back!!

On Friday, January 23, 2026, our students successfully participated in remote learning. All students were sent home with Chromebooks, which were returned as planned. To support our younger learners, K-3 students received supplemental work packets in addition to their Chromebooks to provide hands-on learning opportunities.

A highlight of the day was virtual music class for our K-3 students. The music teacher incorporated student requests for their favorite Disney songs, creating an engaging and joyful experience. This music time proved to be highly therapeutic for our students with emotional disabilities, providing them with a calming, familiar activity that supported emotional regulation while learning from home. The combination of structure, choice, and music helped maintain routines and emotional stability during the remote learning day.

Social Emotional Learning Hot Chocolate Bar

On Friday, January 30, 2026, our school hosted a delightful hot chocolate bar for students and staff on a cold Friday morning. Each student received their own individual coffee cup, and the school provided Dunkin' Donuts hot chocolate. Students and staff enjoyed customizing their drinks with marshmallows and whipped cream, creating a festive and cozy atmosphere.



This simple yet meaningful event provided more than just a warm beverage—it offered our students with emotional disabilities a positive sensory experience and an opportunity to practice social skills in a low-pressure, enjoyable setting. The act of making choices (marshmallows or whipped cream?) and sharing a communal experience helped build connections and created joyful moments to start the day. Events like these are particularly valuable for our students, as they foster a sense of community, provide comfort, and contribute to the nurturing, supportive environment essential for their emotional well-being.

Basketball Season Tip-Off

Basketball season has officially begun! While winter weather has limited us to just one game so far, our students are energized and ready to play! Beyond wins and losses, we're emphasizing sportsmanship, teamwork, and emotional regulation. Basketball offers our students invaluable opportunities to practice managing emotions, working collaboratively, and handling both success and disappointment in healthy ways. Our students are enthusiastic about demonstrating the sportsmanship skills they've been developing, and we're excited to see them grow both athletically and emotionally as the season progresses.



Transitions	2
Hospitalizations	4
Police/Ambulance Calls	2
Restraints	4

Isolation Room	5
Restorative Meeting	0

PAEC Therapeutic Day High School
Academic Operations & Assessments

- Semester Launch: The second semester began successfully on January 5, 2026.
- MAP Testing Update: Due to recent inclement weather and periods of remote learning, Winter MAP Assessments have been rescheduled for the third week of January.
- College Readiness: Testing windows for the Pre-ACT and ACT have been officially confirmed.
- Cook County, with the support of Officer Bolden from the Maywood Police Department, conducted a school-wide check for drug paraphernalia in the programs with the dogs. We were issued a police report number, and no concerns or issues were found.

School Events & Cultural Programs

- Black History Month: The Black History Committee has distributed staff directives in preparation for the upcoming assembly scheduled for February 28 at 9:30 a.m.
- Theme: The 2026 theme, “*A Century of Black History Commemorations*,” as designated by ASALH, marks the 100th anniversary of the first Black History Week (est. 1926). This milestone honors a century of scholarship and the preservation of Black history.

Student Transitions

- Home School Returns: Six students successfully transitioned back to their home schools during the first semester.
- Full-Time Re-entry: One student returned to PMSA on a full-time basis effective January 5, 2026.
- Upcoming Transitions: Additional updates will be provided as transitions are finalized

Physical Management	0
Police Calls	1
Ambulance	1
Restorative Meeting	5

25-26 Current Enrollment: 74 Students

Vocational Program Update

During the month of January, the PAEC High School Vocational Program focused on restarting work-based learning opportunities following the conclusion of the first semester. Two new students were successfully hired into the janitorial work program and have expressed enthusiasm and readiness to begin their work experience.

Ms. Holsten and Mr. Tafoya continued to follow up on external employment and work partnership opportunities. A new partnership is being established with the Ronald McDonald House located at Loyola Hospital. One of our job coaches has prior experience working with students at this site and is eager to reestablish the program. Students will participate twice weekly for approximately 2 hours per visit, assisting with facility organization, cleaning, and general maintenance.

Mr. Tafoya has also reconnected with a former PAEC employee who is facilitating introductions to local restaurants as potential future work partners. Additionally, a meeting is scheduled for next week to explore a possible partnership with Wingstop.

In early January, Mr. Tafoya and Ms. Holsten attended a Counselor Lunch and Learn session hosted by ETI School of Skilled Trades in Willbrook. This session highlighted ETI's specialized programs in HVAC and welding. Staff were impressed by the quality of the programs and had the opportunity to attend a student panel to hear firsthand experiences. The following week, four PAEC High School female students participated in a special presentation by the nationally recognized welder "Miss Welds," who traveled from Houston to speak about women in the welding industry and the wide range of career opportunities available. The students also observed a live welding demonstration to gain a better understanding of the trade.

The Level Up program also resumed in January with a new cohort of seven senior students seeking community-based employment. This program supports students in exploring career interests, gaining work experience, identifying employment or postsecondary opportunities, and engaging in career pathway development activities. We are excited to host this program and connect our students seeking employment with meaningful, community-based work experiences that support their postsecondary goals.

PAEC Center School

The month of January welcomed the students and staff back from Winter Break.

The curriculum for the students in the elementary school is Unique Learning Systems (ULS). Using ready-made, standards-aligned lessons, automated differentiation and built-in assessment tools, ULS helps teachers ensure that every learner gets the support they need.

The High School students use the Education Associates Job Ready curriculum. This series adapts the curriculum provided in the Career Exploration series to meet the needs of students with the most significant challenges. With multiple modes of instruction, no student is left behind. The following list the different titles within the series

- Cleaning
- Maintenance
- Filing
- Greenhouse Work
- Grocery Clerking
- Hair Care & Styling
- Mail Handling
- Table Service
- Child Care
- Animal Care
- Autobody Repair
- Caregiver
- Carpentry
- Food Service
- Health & Nutrition
- Retailing
- Skin & Nail Care
- Small Engine Repair

PAEC Center also uses subscriptions to Scholastic magazines as supplemental instructional materials. Additionally, current events such as Martin Luther King day in January are also recognized and curriculum developed around the day.

During the month of January PAEC Center also hosted Winter Wonderfest. Each classroom produced an activity that revolved around a winter theme and presented it on a table in the gym. The other classrooms were then able to visit the gym on a rotating basis to celebrate the wonders of winter.

The 100th day of school was acknowledged by each classroom decorating their door with 100 of something!

Information	Number of Occurrences
Student Count	176
Transitions	0
Time Outs	0
Restraints	0
Hospitalizations	0
Police Involvement	0
Restorative Meetings	0

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 evidenced-based data and documenting.

Total number of PAEC Behavior Intervention Team: 12

Active: 12

Projected total number for 2025/2026 Academic Year is (14)

Coordinator will post a position for elementary level.

Proviso East: 3

Proviso West: 3

District 87: 2 (currently 1)

Floating Coaches (District 88, District 93, District 92, District 87): 6 (currently 5)

There were a total of 3 individual student referrals in January.

There were a total of 1 classroom referrals submitted in January.

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

Whittier Primary:

First Grade Referral: The student exhibits extreme tantrums within the class setting during instructional learning. Coordinator has been working with student and school personnel to provide a behavior plan based upon planned ignoring, visual aids, token economy, transitional prompting and sensory breaks to increase appropriate behavior. *Update:* Due to extremely aggressive behavior, the student was sent home and the parent has refused to bring him back. Students may be transferring to another school, however support will be provided until the transition occurs.

Update: The student has been transferred to another district to better fit his academic and social needs.

Early Childhood Referral: (On-going) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student to provide behavior management strategies such as daily sensory walks, intentional transitions and a token economy to encourage positive behavior. *Update:* Upon our return from winter break, the Interventionist continues to provide additional support based on administrators request.

New 2nd Grade Classroom Referral: The Coordinator conducted observations for a full classroom. The assigned Interventionist will be coaching the teacher on the implementation of effective interventions to improve the overall function of the class. Interventions will include token economy, expectations and mild consequences due to high levels of disruptive and disrespectful behavior.

Jefferson Primary:

Kindergarten Referral: (On-going support) Student has been assigned to an Interventionist due to excessive and extreme attention seeking behaviors. The student is currently receptive to the Lilo & Stitch behavioral chart designed to reduce behaviors such as screaming and blurting out. The Interventionist will be transitioning out of the classroom upon the return of Thanksgiving break. *Update:* The Interventionist continues to support the classroom due to its transition into a full classroom intervention.

First Grade Classroom Referral: (On-going support) An Interventionist has been assigned to collaborate with the teacher on strategies to reduce highly disruptive behaviors such as excessive talking aloud, off-task, wandering the class among all students. *Update:* The Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

Second Grade Referral: (On-going support) Student has been assigned an Interventionist due to playful and attention seeking behavior. Interventionists will work directly with the teacher to identify appropriate ways for the student to gain appropriate attention.

First Grade Referral: An Interventionist has been assigned to a student to provide additional support, as this student's behavior is not extreme. Support will consist of reminding the student to focus during instructional time and maintaining attentiveness to improve academics.

New 2nd Grade Referral: Due to the students low attendance, observations have been paused. Updates will be provided.

District 92 - Lindop School

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

McKinley Elementary:

Kindergarten Class Referral: An Interventionist was assigned to coach the teacher on structuring the classroom with a schedule, class expectations, task/time management, transition methods, and token economy systems. *Update:* Upon the return of winter break, the Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

First Grade Class Referral: A Student has been assigned an Interventionist due to displaying inappropriate behaviors with peers. The Interventionist will be working with the teacher to implement/demonstrate appropriate peer dynamics through social stories and role-playing.

Previous new referral submission will be paused until a specific Interventionist is available to work with this student based on the level of rapport established.

1 New First Grade Referral: Updates will be provided once observations are conducted.

Lincoln Elementary:

Kindergarten Student Referral: (On-going) The student has been observed exhibiting problem behaviors outside of the classroom. An Interventionist has been assigned to provide additional support with the student during special activities such as gym, art and recess.

Fourth Grade Referral: Student was referred due to impulsive and aggressive behavior. An Interventionist was assigned to address behavior regulation and coping skills.

First Grade Referral: The student has been referred due to excessive chatting and disruptions within the class setting. The student also exhibits behavior that limits his ability to participate during instructional time due to their lack of focus. An Interventionist will be assigned to assist with improving focus by implementing a pre-mack principle/reward system to encourage classroom engagement and minimize disruptions.

1 New Fourth Grade Referral: Updates will be provided once observations are conducted.

Grant Primary:

Early Childhood Student Referral: (On-going) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student and is currently in collaboration with the special education program to support with implementing a behavior/safety and crisis plan. The Interventionist also has incorporated a behavior plan based upon a token economy and small consequences for extremely disruptive and physically violent behavior. *Update:* Upon the return of winter break, the Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

2nd Grade Referral: After conducting observations, this class exhibited very minimal behavioral disruptions. The teacher expressed having no concerns within the class so it was determined that no intervention was needed at this time.

2nd Grade Referral: An Interventionist has been assigned due to several students displaying highly disruptive behavior such as yelling aloud, running around the classroom and oppositional behavior. The Interventionist is working with the teacher while implementing interventions such as antecedent modifications, token economy and mild consequences (limited free time) for defiant behavior.

District 93 - Hillside Elementary

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 Grade Level Principals. The 209 district is in the process of implementing a new MTSS Framework within the Panorama system to ensure equitable and responsive circles of support for students. All BI's will follow this framework under the leadership of Deans and their assigned GLP's.

PAEC OT/PT Department

Staff adjustments: Upon completing mid-year caseloads, we adjusted caseloads, which meant moving OTs to new assignments over the last couple of months and adding a PT at the end of October to serve our students better.

Adjustments to the website: None at this time.

Activities of the department:

1. The AT Team continues to conduct SETT meetings to come up with appropriate assistive technology to address the educational needs of their struggling students.
2. The AT Team attended a staff meeting in person and via Google Meet for those not able to attend in person on 1-07-26 from 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
3. The Lead OT/PT/AT attended a Leadership Staff meeting on 1-14-26 from 10:00 pm - 12:00 pm.
4. The OT/PT Department attended a staff meeting on 1-15-26 via Google Meet from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.
5. The Lead OT/PT/AT and PAEC Social Worker collaborated with Sertomastar and Broadview Park District on hosting a Winter Blues Buster event at the Broadview Park District for our PAEC junior high and high school students on 1-15-26 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. All fun was had by the students who attended.
6. The Lead OT/PT/AT, PAEC Social Worker, and PAEC Center principal have been discussing with representatives from Sertomastar a Valentine's Dance for PAEC and community students 16+ years old at the Broadview Park District. The event will be held on 2-13-26 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.
7. The Lead OT/PT/AT, PAEC Social Worker, and PAEC Center principal have been discussing prom with representatives from Sertomastar for securing a Prom location at the Broadview Park District for 4-16-26.
8. We had an OT student (Kaelen Bradford) from Elmhurst University start his clinicals with our OT, Michele Wolter, in the PAEC programs and in District 88 from Jan. 20th until April 10th.
9. On 1-20-26 and 1-26-26, the PAEC OT/PT Lead met with the OT & PT Leads from LADSE to work on fall speakers for the Fall 2026 OT/PT Consortium Conference.
10. On 1-23-26, the Lead OT/PT/AT interviewed an OT for a potential direct hire OT for the next school year.
11. On 1-26-26, the Lead OT/PT/AT, OTs, PTs, and members of the Leadership Team, attended a MagicSchool training inservice - Level 1: Basic Prompting Applied to MagicSchool Tools from 8:15 am - 9:15 am.
12. On 1-30-26, the Lead OT/PT/AT and AT SLP presented an Assistive Technology presentation for the D88 Program Supervisors and Director of Special Education and Student Services.
13. The Lead OT/PT/AT, AT OT, and AT PT are in the process of attending the ATIA 2026 Conference virtually from 1-29-25 to 1-31-26.

Some equipment that came in during January included purchasing new software programs and renewing software programs such as Google Read & Write and HelpKidzLearn.

PAEC Psychology Department

Dr. Gloria Washington, PAEC Alternative High School, attended the ISPA Winter Convention on January 15th and 16th in East Peoria, IL. Dr. Washington attended sessions on AI usage and neuropsychology.

Ms. Annamaria Iarrapino, District 87 psychologist at Northlake Middle and Riley Intermediate, will be attending the NASP Conference from February 24th-27th in Chicago.

Dr. Michael Cermak, lead psychologist, attended the ISPA Job Fair and Winter Convention from January 14th-16th in East Peoria. Dr. Cermak was able to meet with 7 prospective interns and job seekers (4 interns,

3 job seekers) and will be following up with them. He attended sessions on the 10 most common mistakes that lead to due process, ethics and AI, and mental health screening.

Dr. Michael Cermak will be attending the NASP National Leadership Summit on Sunday February 22nd and Monday February 23rd prior to the NASP Conference in Chicago. He will get to meet with regional and national leaders in school psychology to discuss important issues such as shortages and mental health.

PAEC Social Work Department

Monthly Board Update of PAEC SW Dept. Activities/Initiatives/Information

1. Mr. Patrick Rossi, L.C.S.W., Ms. Kenya Dockens, L.C.S.W., Ms. Anna Landmeier, L.C.S.W., Ms. Donna Kuchera, M.S.W., and Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W. provided crisis counseling services to the students, staff and faculty at Lindop School on January 9, 2026.
2. Ms. Donna Kuchera, M.S.W., Ms. Alexndra Kagan, M.S.W., Ms. Tanaijah Fields, M.S.W., and Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W. (PAEC School Social Workers & PAEC Lead School Social Worker-PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School) and Mr. Elijah Arons (social work intern) continue to provide support to students in crisis to minimize escalations and to provide individual/small group social work sessions covering the following topics: Anger Management; Regulation of Emotions; Developing Self-Advocacy, Implementing Coping Strategies; Substance Abuse; Absenteeism and Fostering Healthy Friendships/Relationships/Personal Interactions. Additionally, Ms. Pirrello and Mr. Arons have been facilitating monthly student/family Wrap Meetings.
3. Ms. Monette Carlos, L.C.S.W., R.P.T. (PAEC School Social Worker – PAEC Early Childhood Program), continues to provide social work services to the early childhood students. During her classroom groups, Ms. Carlos has been working on: labeling our emotions, introducing problem solving skills and what to do when we get upset. In individual sessions, Ms. Carlos has been working on: appropriate social interactions with others. Additionally, Ms. Carlos facilitated parent groups and covered the topics of utilizing noise cancelling headphones, how to decrease tablet time with their children and implementing regular sleep schedules. Ms. Carlos has also worked with creating a social story for students who are having a difficult time getting acclimated to school. Currently, Ms. Carlos, as the Co-Chair of the PAEC Social Work Department In-Service Committee is working alongside this committee's membership and the Lead School Social Worker in securing speakers for the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Ms. Elivette Agosto, M.S.W. and Ms. Haviland Byrd, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers – Proviso West High School) continue to provide individual & small group school social work services to the students with special education needs. Topics covered in social work sessions include: Emotional Regulation; Decreasing Absenteeism, Organizational Skill and Coping strategies. Additionally, Ms. Agosto, as a bilingual school social worker, has assisted students with language barriers on an as needed basis. Ms. Agosto, also, participated in the Signs of Suicide Elyssa's Mission Screenings/Suicide Prevention presentations, as well as administered questionnaires to students.
5. Ms. Jill Collins, M.S.W., Ms. Anna Landmeier, L.C.S.W., C.A.D.C., and Ms. Tanaijah Fields, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Center School) continues to meet with the students on their caseloads individually and/or in classroom groups. During the month of January, Ms. Collins has been working on Coping Skills/Strategies, Mindfulness, and Advocacy. Additionally, Ms. Collins has completed behavioral observations for student FBA/BIP's; and provided parent/guardian and staff resources on programming, PUNS, behavioral support and guardianship

application. Ms. Anna Landmeier has been working on the following topics during her individual/group social work sessions: Social Stories; Coping Skills Strategies, Relationship Skills; Identifying Acts of Kindness; Making Choices; Following Directions; Good Friend/Bad Friend Behaviors; Modeling Appropriate Social Skills/Practicing Replacement Behaviors; Adjusting Voice Volume and Age-Appropriate Self-Regulations Strategies. Ms. Tanaijah Fields has been working on the following topics with students on her caseload: Appropriate Communication/Interaction Skills with peers/staff; Developing Coping Strategies and How to Keep Conversations Going during Social Interactions. Additionally, the PAEC Center School Social Workers continues to assist with providing support to the PAEC Center Staff in and out of the classroom settings, providing crisis intervention, participating in PAEC Center Building teams and various committee meetings.

6. Ms. Niane Serrano, M.S.W., and Mr. Patrick Rossi, L.C.S.W. (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Elementary School) continue to provide social work services to students and families they serve. Mr. Rossi and Ms. Serrano have been working on the following topics during their group/individual social work sessions: Managing Big Feelings; Utilizing Coping Strategies; How to Appropriately Socialize with Others; How to Make/Keep Friends; Acts of Kindness; Mindfulness; Negative vs. Positive Attention; Making Safe Choices; and Keeping Your Body Healthy/Safe. Additionally, Ms. Serrano has been participating in the PAEC Elementary School Weekly Student Open Gym Activity Night, whereby students who are eligible to participate through the behavioral point sheet levels may choose to attend Open Gym or Playing Video Games after school.
7. Ms. Nicole Peña, M.S.W. (PAEC School Social Worker-PAEC Academy) continues to provide individual/small group/classroom group/push-in social work sessions to the students at PAEC Academy, covering topics such as: Developing Self-Awareness through painting Self-Portraits; Learning Self-Advocacy Skills; How to Handle Feeling and Self-Regulate and Coping Skills. Ms. Peña, also, collaborates with other therapists (SLP, OT & PT) during super groups. Additionally, Ms. Peña provides daily check-ins and check-outs with students and facilitates daily push-in social work services in classrooms throughout the school day. Ms. Peña has provided families with referrals, as needed, and coordinated/planned the Parent/Student tour at Proviso East High School with 8th Grade Families. Additionally, Ms. Peña received free toothbrushes, toothpaste and learning materials from Colgate Bright Smiles/Bright Future
8. Ms. Cecilia Feliciano, M.S.W. and Ms. Temika Peace, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers –Proviso East High School) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to students on their caseload at Proviso East High School, as well as attending annual review and re-evaluation meetings. Topics covered during social work sessions include: Emotional Regulation; Life Skills; and Coping Strategies. This month, Ms. Peace and Ms. Feliciano have been involved with the student MTSS teams to provide interventions to students with attendance, behavioral and and/or academic issues/concerns.
9. Ms. Kenya Dockens, L.C.S.W. (PAEC School Social Worker – Hillside School) and Mr. Elijah Arons (Social Work Intern) continues to facilitate social work services to the students at Hillside School. Currently, Ms. Dockens and Mr. Arons have been facilitating the 6th grade MTSS group and have been focusing on Confidence Building, Self-Esteem and Coping Skills. Additionally, Ms. Dockens organized and partnered with Pillars Community Health to facilitate child sexual abuse prevention presentations to grades K-8th (Jan 28/29,2026).
10. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W., (PAEC Lead School Social Worker) has been working collaboratively with the PAEC Social Work Department In-Service committee and its Co-Chair, Ms. Monette Carlos, in choosing topics and securing speakers for next year's (2025-26) PAEC School Social Work Department's professional developments. Ms. Pirrello has arranged for another PAEC High

School Teen Presentation event to occur at PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School, through the Proviso Public Partnership (PPP), on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, in the PAEC High School Gymnasium. The topic to be covered by Mr. Phil Schneeberger of the PPP is “Substance Abuse and Your Health”. Additionally, Ms. Pirrello continues to provide support, guidance and supervision to the PAEC School Social Workers individually and/or in groups as needed. Ms. Pirrello attended the following training: Magic School (Jan. 26, 2026) and Practical Neurodiversity-Affirming Strategies for Student Support Teams (Jan. 28, 2026). Ms. Pirrello is an active member of the following committees: Wellness Committee; Calendar Committee, AI Committee, Security Committee and Crisis Intervention Team.

11. The next PAEC School Social Work Department In-Service Training is:
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026
Time: 10am-1pm
Topic: “Building Confidence & Ease From First Meeting to Ongoing Support”
Speaker: Ms. Gabrielle Anderson, LMFT, RPT-S

PAEC Speech/Language Department

- Lead SLP attended the Leadership Team meeting on Wednesday, January 14th. Notable topics included training for Company Nurse, the new Workers Comp reporting system and participation in a focus group for the Strategic Plan.
- Erin Mullins, CF-SLP contracted from Therapy Care completed orientation and started in her role in D88 at Roosevelt Middle School on January 5th, 2026.
- Ava Morgan, CF-SLP contracted from Amergis completed orientation and started in her role in D88 at McKinley Elementary School on January 20th, 2026
- Ann Coenen (Lead SLP), Dr. Julia Barnicle (AT Lead), and Catlin Dewan (AT SLP) met with D88 leaders (Dr. Herrera and all of the Special Education Supervisors) to discuss the AT process on Friday, Jan. 30th at Lincoln Elementary School.
- Lead SLP participated in a virtual Northern IL Speech/Language Coordinators Meeting on Friday, January 23rd, 2026 from 9:15-11:15 am. Topics included ISBE documentation updates, state continuing education requirements, IMPACT registration, Medicaid billing, cost settlement, and more.
- Lead SLP participated in the first meeting for the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar committee on Tuesday, January 27th. An additional meeting is being planned to finish working on the calendar.

PAEC Special Olympics

This season has been an incredible one for the Special Olympics at PAEC Center and PAEC Academy! Our athletes showed great teamwork, sportsmanship, and determination throughout the season. Both the PAEC Pacers and the PAEC Bulldogs earned exciting victories in the Region C Tournament held at Unity Junior High School in Cicero, Illinois.

This year, we were proud to have four teams representing us—two from PAEC Center and two from PAEC Academy. While the Pacers and Bulldogs at PAEC Center did not qualify for the State Finals held in Bloomington, Illinois this March, they played with passion and heart, making us all proud.

The PAEC Academy Black Team had a wonderful season, advancing to State for the second consecutive year! Last year, they qualified but were unable to place, and we’re hopeful that this year they’ll take home the gold. A huge thank-you to Sheri and her coaching staff for their outstanding work and dedication to the team.

Basketball Player Development

This year, three of our elementary students participated in the Region B Basketball Skills Qualifier, a fantastic event that provides athletes of all ability levels—and those using equipment or mobility devices—with meaningful competition opportunities.

Looking ahead, we hope to involve more of our elementary students in Special Olympics programs. Increased participation will not only encourage student growth but also strengthen parent and teacher involvement. We were thrilled to see some teachers come out to cheer for their students during our home games—thank you for your support!

PAEC Events

February 2026



PAEC Programs

2/6 – Staff In-Service - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

2/13 – Valentine Dance – Broadview, IL (6pm to 8pm)



2/16 – **PRESIDENTS DAY – NO SCHOOL**



PAEC Center

2/25 – Black History Fair
All Day in the Gym

2/27 – Black History Fair
Proviso East – All Day

PAEC High School

2/27 – Black History Fair 9:30am

PAEC Academy

2/ 5th - Black History Month –

Wear Red, Black or Green colors

2/11th - Make a Valentine Day Card

2/13th - Valentine's Day Celebrations/Wear Red or Pink

2/19th - Black History/Inventors Celebration

2/ 20th - Bowling Trip - Wear PAEC Academy Spirit wear

2/24th - Basketball Practice - 3-4:30pm

Eventos de PAEC

Febrero 2026



Programas de PAEC

- 2/6 – Día de Instituto - **NO CLASES PARA ESTUDIANTES**
2/13 – Baile de San Valentin – Broadview, IL (6pm to 8pm)



- 2/16 – **DIA DE PRESIDENTES – NO CLASES**



Centro de PAEC

- 2/25 – Feria de Celebracion Afro-Americana
Todo el Dia en el gimnasio
2/27 – Feria de Celebracion Afro-Americana
Todo el Dia en Proviso East

Secundaria de PAEC

- 2/27 – Feria de Celebracion Afro-Americana 9:30am

Academia de PAEC

- 2/5th – Mes de Historia Afro-Americana –
Usar Colores Rojo, Negro o Verde
2/11th – Día de Hacer Tarjetas de San Valentin
2/13th – Celebracion de San Valentin/Usar Rojo o Rosa
2/19th – Historia Afro-Americana/Celebracion de Inventores
2/ 20th – Paseo de Boliche – Usar Playera de PAEC
2/24th – Practica de Baloncesto - 3-4:30pm

Tigers of the Month



Pep Rally - January 9, 2026





Special Olympics Regionals - January 12, 2026





100th Day - January 29, 2026



JACQUESE ROBINSON



How long have you been at PAEC?

I've been a Paec employee for 9 years with three different positions.

What do you enjoy about your job position?

I enjoy everything about my position. The highs and lows, the smiles, the cries but what I love the most is being the one my students can truly depend on to lead guide and direct them in the right direction!

I enjoy knowing each day I have the chance to turn a frown upside down! I love what I do but more importantly who I do it for.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Patience is truly a virtue and don't take anything personal!

No position is too small - we need each other but keep pushing until you're where you want to be!

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I cry and laugh about EVERYTHING lol

PAUL MIKELSON



How long have you been
at PAEC?

This is my 25th year
with PAEC

What do you enjoy about
your job position?

One of the things I enjoy
most, is the longevity
of my fellow staff members.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Enjoy everyday.

One student at a time.

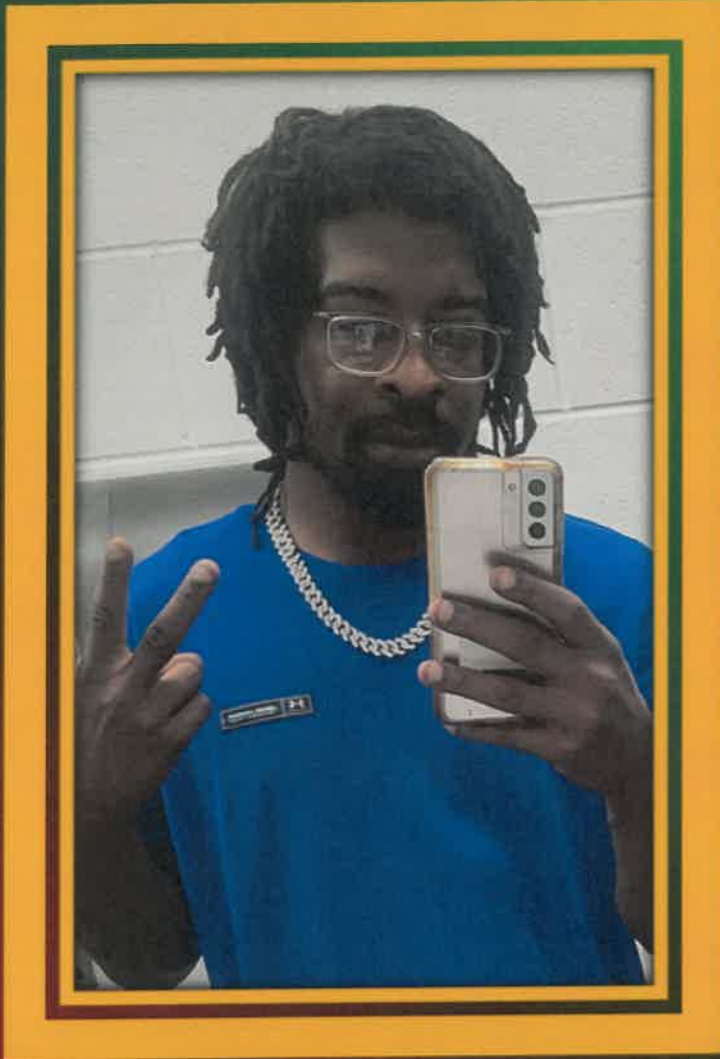
Relax and enjoy yourself on a regular basis.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

December 20 th. 2025, I tested for my 4 th degree black belt in Hapido.



TIFF HAMILTON



How long have you been at PAEC?

I been at Paec like 18 years.

What do you enjoy about your job position?

I enjoy the beautiful faces that show up with smiles, ready to encourage the children.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

My advice would be having consistent communication, proactively support student needs and foster independence.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself?

Interesting fact: I should've been in the NFL, and I can't live without music. Funny:

I don't understand the words coming out of Mrs. Eunice's mouth.

I hit my snooze on my alarm at least five times every morning.

MONETTE CARLOS



How long have you been at PAEC?

I've been working at PAEC since
August of 2001

What do you enjoy about your job position?

The best part about working with preschoolers is the opportunity to play, have fun, and embrace my inner child.

I get to be as goofy as I want,
and they don't mind one bit!

I also love working with my coworkers—
everyone in EC supports one another
and works as a team.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel? I believe it's important to build strong relationships with your students, parents, and coworkers. Once you've earned their trust and respect, collaboration becomes much easier. Staying organized and managing your time effectively are crucial, and flexibility is key since things don't always go as planned. Finally, setting boundaries helps protect your well-being. Don't be too hard on yourself—it takes time to master all of this.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself. I'm a creative and imaginative person who enjoys turning activities into engaging games.



KATIE HUCK



How long have you been at PAEC?

14 years

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

There is a lot I love about being an SLP in general, but I'd have to say watching the students make progress in their communication skills and how it creates positive shifts in all aspects of their life is very rewarding.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel? I suggest not considering oneself an expert but as experienced with room to learn. Our field is always evolving; every time I learn something new, there's 10 more things to learn right behind it.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I'm a full grown adult that still loves roller coasters

ANNA LANDMEIER



How long have you been at PAEC?
I have been with PAEC for 2 years.

What do you enjoy about your
job position?

As a school social worker, I get to
combine meaningful service with a
dynamic role
in helping students develop
independence, overcome challenges,
build resilience,
and foster positive relationships—
all while working only half
the days of the year!

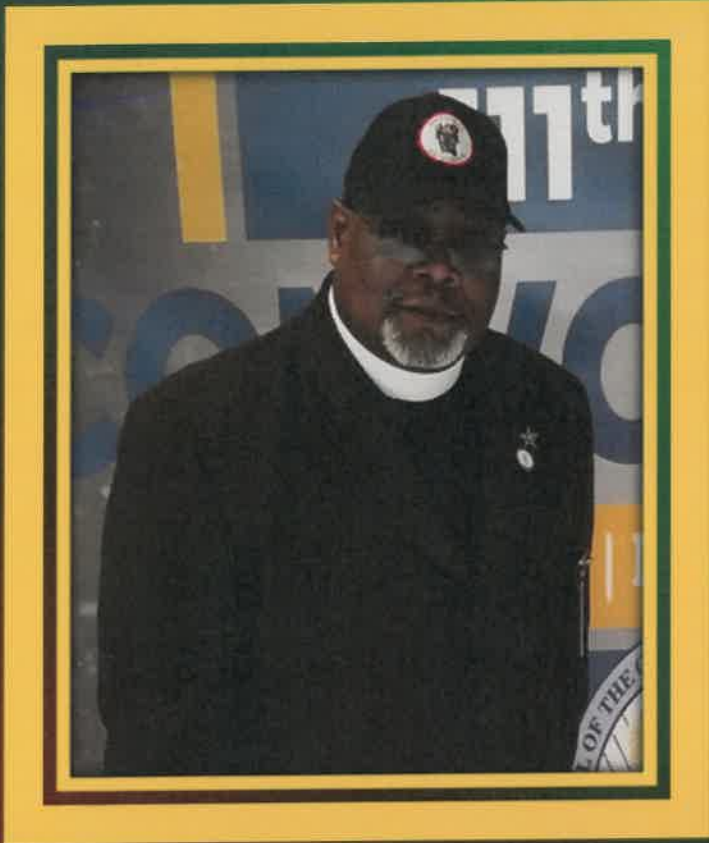
What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

The only way to do great work is to love what you do.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I adore all things LEGO! My self-care involves building LEGO sets
and expanding my collection of over 160 LEGO minifigures.

SAMMIE ROGERS



How long have you been at PAEC?
8years

What do you enjoy about your job position?
Working with the children and helping
bring a smile to their face.
interacting with teachers and parents
along with Admin.

Being a behavior specialist,
helps me understand the why in student
behavior and to come up with a support
plan to enhance and better support
the student.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?
Main goal be patient and listen to the wants and needs of the student that you are
working with. always stay positive. Build a trust relationship with students and
parents.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I'm a Pastor that loves the Lord and God's people. I love singing, skating, and
cooking. I am a people person. I have been a radio personality for over 40 years,
and work in law enforcement.



SEOYOUNG KIM



How long have you been at PAEC?
I have been at PAEC for four years.

What do you enjoy about your job position?
As an occupational therapist servicing students in different schools, I enjoy working with students across a wide range of ages and needs while collaborating with other therapists and professionals.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?
Be flexible, willing to collaborate, and kind.

Always acknowledge that others may have more knowledge of the students or greater expertise and experience, and be willing to learn!

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

When I'm not at work, you can usually find me taking naps, sipping iced matcha, or reading my Bible under a heated blanket!