



PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

"QUALITY EDUCATION WITH CARE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT".

PAEC CENTER BOARDROOM - 9:00 AM

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **CLOSED SESSION**
3. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**
4. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**
5. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
 - B. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**
 - C. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**
6. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR VILLAGE OF MAYWOOD TO PROVIDE ICE MELT TO PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (PAEC)**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT REPORT**
 - B. **DISTRICT # 91 STUDENT PLACEMENT**
 - C. **CERTIFICATION FOR PAYMENT FOR GEOTHERMAL PROJECT**
 - D. **EyeMed as PAEC's VISION BENEFITS CARRIER.**
 - E. **BAKER TILLY ENGAGEMENT LETTER**
 - F. **SERTOMA STAR SERVICES SUMMER CAMP**
 - G. **ELMHURST UNIVERSITY - AFFILIATION AGREEMENT**
 - H. **ProCare Therapy Agreement**
 - I. **AGENGY RENEWAL CONTRACTS 2026 - 2027**
 - a. **DELTA T 26-27**
 - b. **RoHEALTH**
 - c. **EDU Health Agreement**
 - d. **Advance Therapy Group 26-27**
 - J. **PROPOSED LEASE AT THURGOOD MARSHALL IN BELLWOOD SD88**
8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT**
 - A. **CURRENT DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2025-2026**

The information is attached.

B. CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING PATTERNS 2025-2026

The information is attached.

C. PROJECTED ESY DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2026–2027

D. TRANSITION REPORTS

The information is attached.

E. INITIAL REFERRALS

The information is attached.

F. POLICE REPORTS

There were no police reports.

G. PAEC ACTIVITY FUND

The information is attached.

H. PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES

The information is attached.

I. PAEC EVENTS

The information is attached.

J. MEETING WITH SPEAKER WELCH

K. PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The information is attached.

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

A. PRESS PLUS 121 (1ST READING)

Section 2 — Governing Board

2:140-E Exhibit — Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use

2:200 Types of Board Meetings

2:220 Board Meeting Procedures

2:250 Access to Cooperative Public Records

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

Section 4 — Operational Services

4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors

Section 5 — General Personnel

5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

5:50 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

5:30 Leaves of Absence

5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves

Section 6 — Instruction

6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development

6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program

Section 7 — Students

7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited

7:50 School Admission/Eligibility for Services

7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

- 7:220 Bus Conduct
- 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities
- 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities
- 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education
- 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

10. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Thank You Card - Mrs. Pat Carter and Family
Early Childhoos - Parent Email

11. MEETING RECAP

1. The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve the resolution for the approval and execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Village of Maywood and PAEC to provide ice melt.
2. Press Plus 121 was introduced to the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve ESY staff contracts.
4. The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve Sertoma Star summer camp at PAEC in July 2026.
5. The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve EyeMed as PAEC's vision benefits carrier.
6. The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve Proposed Lease at SD88 - Thurgood Marshall.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next PAEC Executive Board meeting will be on June 11, 2026. District #87 will be facilitating the meeting. Dr. Victoria Stockton will be the Executive Board Representative for the Governing Board's May 20th meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

**PAYROLL AGENDA
APRIL 2026**

	<u>GROSS</u> 4/15/2026	<u>FICA</u> 4/15/2026	<u>RETIREMENT</u> 4/15/2026	<u>BENEFITS</u> 4/15/2026	<u>TOTAL</u> 4/15/2026	
Education Fund	\$ 513,869.49	\$ 22,037.36	\$ 17,890.69	\$121,357.44	\$ 675,154.98	PAYROLL 04/15/2026
Building Fund	\$ 20,401.46	\$ 1,552.68	\$ 1,136.38	\$4,100.58	\$ 27,191.10	
TOTALS	\$ 534,270.95	\$ 23,590.04	\$ 19,027.07	\$ 125,458.02	\$ 702,346.08	

	<u>GROSS</u> 4/30/2026	<u>FICA</u> 4/30/2026	<u>RETIREMENT</u> 4/30/2026	<u>BENEFITS</u> 4/30/2026	<u>TOTAL</u> 4/30/2026	
Education Fund	\$ 502,806.61	\$ 21,410.50	\$ 17,391.68	\$128,287.11	\$ 669,895.90	PAYROLL 04/30/2026
Building Fund	\$ 18,766.12	\$ 1,427.49	\$ 1,045.28	\$4,350.23	\$ 25,589.12	
TOTALS	\$ 521,572.73	\$ 22,837.99	\$ 18,436.96	\$ 132,637.34	\$ 695,485.02	

**ACTION ITEM – PERSONNEL REPORT
May 2026**

A. Employment

1. Julie Zay Teacher
Effective Date: August 17, 2026
Bill Rate: \$77,044
Location: PAEC Early Childhood

2. Monica Jimenez Jaimez Social Work Intern
Effective Date: August 17, 2026
Bill Rate: \$7,704.79 (stipend)
Location: PAEC High School & Hillside D93

3. Joel Henderson Payroll Coordinator
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Bill Rate: \$50,000
Location: PAEC Early Childhood

B. Resignations

1. Elijah Arons Social Work Intern
Effective Date: May 27, 2026
Location: PAEC High School & Hillside D93

2. Johnny Mayorga IT Coordinator
Effective Date: June 30, 2026
Location: PAEC District Office

C. Transfers

1. Joel Henderson Payroll Coordinator
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Transfer from: Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCA)

D. Terminations

There are no terminations at this time

E. PAEC ESY Employment- (see attachment)

F. Leave of Absence

1. Phillip Gibbs Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)
Effective Date: April 23, 2026 through May 27, 2026

G. Vacation Time Request

Mr. James is requesting to cash out five days of unused vacation days.

H. Salary Increase Percentage (based on salary survey from Member Districts)

1. Administrative Positions 4.01%
2. Clerical/Custodial (Support Staff) 3.88%

ACTION ITEM – CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS
May 2026

A. Cross Country Education

1. Daniel McLaurin	Social Worker
Effective Date:	March 19, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$70 per hour
Location:	PMSA

B. Delta T

1. Candis Herring	1:1 Program Assistant -D87
Effective Date:	April 27, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$33 per hour
Location:	PAEC Academy

C. ProCare Therapy

1. Tina Bickler	1:1 Program Assistant -D87 (2026-2027 Renewal)
Effective Date:	August 17, 2026, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$42 per hour
Location:	PAEC Center Autism

D. Ro Health

1. Tanee Jackson	Classroom Aide D209
Effective Date:	April 22, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$42 per hour
Location:	PMSA
2. Marques Smith	1:1 Program Assistant-D87
Effective Date:	April 28, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$42 per hour
Location:	PAEC Elementary
3. Damiana Diaz	1:1 Program Assistant-D88
Effective Date:	May 4, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$42 per hour
Location:	PAEC Center CCF

E. Ahs Staffing (PediaStaff)

1. Kelly Nicole Raye	Occupational Therapist (2026-2027 Renewal)
Effective Date:	August 17, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$83 per hour
Location:	TBD
2. Catrina Atwood	Occupational Therapist (2026-2027 Renewal)
Effective Date:	August 17, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$86 per hour
Location:	TBD
3. Natasha Webster Brown	1:1 Nurse LPN (2026-2027 Renewal)

Effective Date: August 17, 2026
Bill Rate: \$56 per hour
Location: PAEC Center (East Classroom)

F. Spotter

1. Annie Koehler
Effective Date: August 18, 2026
Bill Rate: \$92 per hour
Location: TBD
Speech Language Pathologist (2026-2027 Renewal)
2. Ciara McGlynn
Effective Date: August 18, 2026
Bill Rate: \$92 per hour
Location: TBD
Speech Language Pathologist (2026-2027 Renewal)
3. Liliana DeLeon
Effective Date: August 18, 2026
Bill Rate: \$95 per hour
Location: TBD
Speech Language Pathologist (2026-2027 Renewal)
4. Catlin Carroll
Effective Date: August 18, 2026
Bill Rate: \$95 per hour
Location: TBD
Speech Language Pathologist (2026-2027 Renewal)

G. Independent Contractor

1. Dr. Osama El-Shafie
Effective Date: 2026-2027 School Year
Bill Rate: \$1,092.00 per session
Location: TBD
Psychiatrist (Renewal)

H. EPIC Staffing

1. Temika Peace
Effective Date: June 8, 2026-June 29, 2026
Bill Rate: \$92 per hour
Location: TBD
Social Worker (ESY)

I. AnthroMed

1. Nicole Peña
Effective Date: June 8, 2026-June 29, 2026
Bill Rate: \$92.11 per hour
Location: PAEC Academy
Social Worker (ESY)

J. Contractual Transfers

1. Osmara Moreira
Effective Date: March 5, 2026
Transfer from: 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center Autism)-D93
Program Assistant (PAEC Center Autism)
2. James Barnes
Effective Date: March 5, 2026
1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center Autism)-D93

Transfer from:

Program Assistant (PAEC Center Autism)

K. Contractual Terminations

1. Denzel Moore
Effective Date:

Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)
May 6, 2026

2. Candis Herring
Effective Date:

1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Academy)-D87
May 7, 2026

PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES FROM MAY 2026

PAEC Academy at Divine Infant

1) Academics

Students successfully completed IAR and Science testing within the scheduled timeline. All assessments were administered using Chromebooks, and there were no major issues that could not be quickly resolved.

In addition, all classrooms received Butterfly Kits so every student could participate in this hands-on learning experience. Students have been learning about the butterfly life cycle and have had the opportunity to observe and witness each stage of the process directly within their classrooms.

Teachers are currently completing FastBridge benchmarking within their classrooms. Data from both goal monitoring and FastBridge assessments was used to help determine Extended School Year (ESY) eligibility and support informed decision-making for student programming.

2) Festivities

Under the leadership of Ms. Pena, PAEC Academy participated in Kindness Week from April 20th through April 24th. Students engaged in activities focused on friendship, caring for the earth through recycling, and personal reflection. The week concluded with a surprise pizza party for the entire school, generously provided by the Martinez family.

3) Interesting Information

May 4th-8th - Staff Appreciation
 May 4th - Ms. Dranko's class trip
 May 6th- Soccer Practice
 May 8th - Late start @9:45 am
 May 8th - 8th Grade Trip
 May 8th- PLCCA Field trip
 May 13th- Soccer game at Cove School
 May 15th- PAEC Academy Field Day
 May 20th - Last Soccer Practice of the season
 May 22nd- Graduation @1:00 pm
 May 25th - Memorial day - NO School
 May 27th- Last day of School

4) Program Information

a. Student Count	71
b. Transitions	2 students in partial transition between Academy and district
c. Time Outs	0
d. Restraints	4
e. Hospitalizations	0

f. Police Involvement	0
g. Restorative Meetings	0

PAEC Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Program had a month-long celebration of our amazing students on the Autism Spectrum. We had a spirit week from April 20-24 focusing on the special qualities of our friends on the spectrum: Monday was celebrating our unique minds; Tuesday was all about wearing comfortable clothing; Wednesday was focusing on the passions that we all love to learn about; Thursday we dressed to shine in bright or tie dyed clothing; and Friday was all about working together and we wore sports wear.

On April 22 we celebrated Earth Day.

The deadline to register for summer school was April 24th and we have 11 students signed up for the extended school year program.

The EC principal has gone on home visits throughout the school but in April along with the Dist. 87 EC Coordinator, Melonie Kowalczyk we conducted the final early intervention to early childhood transition meetings.

PAEC will be testing 5 students between April and May to determine placement for the upcoming school year. The Dist 87 team will be testing three students.

The themes for April were Spring, Earth Day, and Bugs.

The learning targets for the month were:

COLORS: Blue, Orange, and Green

SHAPES: Diamond, and Oval

LETTERS: I and K

NUMBERS: 12 and 13

All the learning targets were reviewed from April 28 to May 1.

PAEC Therapeutic Day Elementary School



Illinois Assessment of Readiness Spring 2026 Testing Window Closed

The IAR is the state-mandated evaluation administered annually to students in grades 3–8, measuring proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics in alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards. Testing concluded at the end of April.



EARTH DAY 2026

Earth Day 2026 takes place on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, marking the 56th anniversary of the global environmental movement to protect the planet. Students at PAEC Elementary incorporate art into their Earth Day celebrations.

Autism Awareness Month

April is National Autism Acceptance Month (also known as Autism Awareness Month), dedicated to raising awareness, promoting inclusion, and fostering acceptance for people on the autism spectrum. Observed throughout April, with World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd, the month features educational campaigns, fundraising, and community events to support individuals with autism.

Spirit Week at PAEC elementary had daily celebrations. Students raised awareness by creating visible community engagement with a culminating Autism Awareness Walk.

Upcoming events

Field Trip to Brookfield Zoo
Field Day
Graduation

Transitions	3
Hospitalizations	1
Police/Ambulance Calls	0
Restraints	4
Isolation Room	3
Restorative Meeting	2

PAEC Therapeutic Day High School

Academic Operations & Assessments

- **Academic:** PAEC completed testing for ACT, Pre ACT & Pre Act 9. We also completed Spring NWEA MAP Testing. We were very proud of the students' results and the growth that we have seen with our lowest students and the utilization of our resource intervention staff.
- Seniors will take finals on May 11 & 12.
- The rest of the students will take second semester finals on May 22, 26 & 27.

School Culture & Student Engagement

- PLCCA completed Teen Huddle. Mr. Fields had a small group of students for four days with team-building activities.
- Mr. Phill from PPP came for our last assembly for the 25/26 school year to talk about Peer Pressure.
- Our Senior Students wanted their own Prom which will be held May 8 from 6-9 pm.

- PLCCA will host an “End of the Year Bash” on May 8 for the entire district.
- Senior Trip to Dave and Buster will be on May 13.
- Graduation will be on May 14 in the PAEC HS Gym starting promptly at 5:30pm.

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. A student returned to Proviso West on a full-time basis effective March 9, 2026.
- Upcoming Transitions: Two more students are being transitioned to Proviso West for the start of the 26/27 school year.

Physical Management	0
Police Calls	0
Ambulance	0
Restorative Meeting	8

25-26 Current Enrollment: 84 Students
Summer School Projection: 50 Students

Vocational Program Update

During the month of April, efforts were focused on finalizing graduation plans for our senior cohort. We are pleased to report that 23 students are on track to graduate. Notably, several of these students were previously behind in credits and demonstrated significant perseverance by utilizing APEX Learning to recover coursework and meet graduation requirements alongside their peers.

This semester also marked the successful completion of another 10-week Financial Literacy program. Six students completed the program, and we continue to receive consistently positive feedback regarding its impact. We are encouraged by its success and look forward to continuing the program in the upcoming school year.

Additionally, we celebrated the completion of our first cohort of three students in the Level Up program. Through this six-week workforce readiness initiative, students developed resumes, practiced interview skills through mock interviews, and gained knowledge in financial literacy and social-emotional management. The program concluded with a graduation ceremony at the Level Up offices in Maywood, where students were also provided with professional attire to support their future employment opportunities.

As we approach the conclusion of the current school year, we are also wrapping up our janitorial work program. In preparation for next year, we have begun accepting new applicants on a trial basis. This process allows students to explore the role and determine their interest in continuing with the program in the following school year.

Finally, we have expanded our team by hiring two additional job coaches to support programming at the

West 40 Intermediate Service Center Food Pantry and our partnership with Firehouse Subs. We are excited to welcome them and are confident they will strengthen our ability to serve students effectively.





PAEC Center School

The month started with everyone returning from Spring Break ready to begin the final weeks of the school year!

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 save time and ensures 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.

This month the theme was around Spring, flowers, etc. The students were able to take advantage of the playground now that the weather has been warmer.

DLM testing was completed as well as Fastbridge testing for the students in our Proviso East location. SANDI and FAST testing are starting and will be completed in May.

Additionally, we did celebrate the end of the school year with our annual prom! As in the past few years, we have teamed with Leisure and Recreation Services and Broadview Park District to host a prom for current students as well as alumni. We had approximately 35 current students and 70 alumni attend the event. There were staff volunteers who helped to make it the success it was!

PAEC Behavior Intervention (BI) 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: 13

Active: 13

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

The elementary level position has been posted.

Proviso East: 3

Proviso West: 3

District 87: 2 (currently 1)

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

There were a total of 1 individual student referrals in April.

There were a total of 0 classroom referrals submitted in April.

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

Sunnyside Elementary:

3rd Grade Student Referral: A referral was submitted due to a student's inability to attend to tasks in class, negative physical and verbal interactions with peers, and the struggle to navigate the school building independently due to behavior concerns. The Coordinator has conducted initial observations, and the team is currently awaiting guardian consent to support the student and teacher.

Whittier Primary:

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:* The Interventionist will continue to provide additional support for the duration of the school year based on administrators request, 3 days per week.

2nd Grade Classroom Referral: (On-going) The assigned Interventionist continues the implementation of effective interventions to improve the overall function of the class. Interventions have included a token economy system, implementations of class expectations, sensory room/calming corner and mild consequences due to high levels of disruptive and disrespectful behavior.

Jefferson Primary:

Kindergarten Student/Classroom Referral: (On-going support) The Interventionist continues to support the classroom due to its transition into a full classroom intervention. Interventions include a full class reward/point system, antecedent modifications such as rearranging seats, social stories to encourage positive interactions, and behavior specific praise.

First Grade Referral: (On-going support) 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, implementing non-verbal cues to redirect and maintaining attentiveness to improve academics.

2nd Grade Referral: (On-going) The student has been assigned to a BI for behavioral support to improve off-task behaviors such as not attending to and completing work. The student also demonstrates a poor ability to interact with peers appropriately and positively. The Interventionist will create and provide the

student with social stories regarding peer interactions and has identified a reward system to help her focus during instructional time.

First Grade Classroom Referral: There have been several students (3) referred within this class due to excessive disrespect towards the teacher. Students have displayed physical aggression such as throwing items and desks, and have collectively caused significant disruptions within the classroom. An Interventionist has been assigned to incorporate antecedent modifications (seating changes), a reward system for the on-tasks students, review of expectations and mild consequences for extreme behavior. *Update:* 2 of the 3 students have been reintegrated (seating arrangement) with the rest of the class due to improvements. Interventions including replacement behavior for attention seeking has been implemented also.

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: (On-Going) 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:* Interventionists continue to provide on-going support **as needed**.

First Grade Class Referral: (On-Going) 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. *Update:* The Interventionist has successfully transitioned out due to a significant improvement in behavior.

First Grade Referral: The student has been assigned to a BI due to excessive negative peer interactions. The Behavior Interventionist continues to incorporate antecedent strategies, including structured separation from peers, to decrease inappropriate social interactions and promote on-task behavior.

New Kindergarten Referral: A student transfer from Lincoln Elementary has been referred due to physical aggression and refusal/non-compliance. The Coordinator has observed the student and will be assigning an Interventionist during the first week of May.

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. *Update:* *This student has been transferred to another school.*

First Grade Referral: (On-going) 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 continues to assist with improving focus by implementing a pre-mack principle/reward system to encourage classroom engagement and minimize disruptions.

Fourth Grade Referral: (On-Going) A student was referred due to continuous oppositional and defiant behavior with adults, as well as attention seeking behavior. An Interventionist continues to aid in reducing

classroom outburst, oppositional/noncompliance, as well as implementing a differentiated reinforcement technique to receive appropriate attention.

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:* Per administration request, the Interventionists will continue to provide on-going support, while providing strategies to successfully help the 1:1 staff support the student.

2nd Grade Classroom 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. Update: The Interventionist continues to work with the teacher to improve behaviors, as there have been improvements in class engagement and positive praise.

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: Currently meeting with 3 OT/PT staff members who have expressed an interest in converting from contract to direct hire for next school year. Checking in with all the therapists to see who has plans to return for next year.

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. Will be wrapping up meetings for this school year.
2. The Lead OT/PT/AT attended the Prom Committee Meeting of our Special Events via Google Meet on 4-10-26, 4-17-26, and the prom follow-up meeting on 4-24-26 from 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM, and attended the Prom event on 4-21-26.
3. The AT Team attended a staff meeting on 4-08-26 in-person and via Zoom from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.
4. The OT/PT/AT Lead and SLP Lead met with representatives from Spotter on 04-13-26 to discuss the performance of current contracted therapists and what Spotter has to offer for ESY and the next school year.
5. The OT/PT department conducted their monthly meeting via Zoom on 4-22-26 from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. This meeting included an article review titled: [Effectiveness of Spider Cage Therapy for](#)

[Balance Control in Spastic Diplegic Cerebral Children: A Pilot Study](#) by PT Nancy Costello.

6. Our OT/PT/AT Lead attended an OT/PT Coordinators meeting via Zoom on 4-23-26 from 10:00 am-1:30 pm.
7. The OT/PT/AT Lead has been collecting information from the departments to provide ESY coverage, as programs know their needs. ESY interest forms have been received, and the lead OT/PT/AT will make ESY assignments as soon as information is available from programs regarding their enrollment.
8. The OT/PT/AT Lead is working on projected expenses for the upcoming school year.
9. The OT/PT/AT Lead has been working on collecting caseload/workload information from the OTs and PTs in preparation for the next school year to determine OT, PT, and AT coverage for the upcoming school year, and will begin working on any openings as soon as possible.
10. There were no Clinics this month for Wheelchairs and Orthotics.
11. April is OT month. OTs put together an activity and informational flyers. Please view our information below:

[OT Month April 2026](#), [OT Month April 2026 -2](#),

[OT Month April 2026 -3](#), [OT Month April 2026 -4](#)

Pieces of equipment that were ordered in the last month were the Virco chairs that have movement capabilities, projectors that emit light, and fine motor/dexterity games. See the pictures below.



ZUMA Series 15" C2M 4-Leg Chair



ZUMA Series 18" C2M 4-Leg Chair:



Zuma Series, Rocker, 17-3/4" Height Seat



Zuma Series Rocker Chair - 15" Seat Height



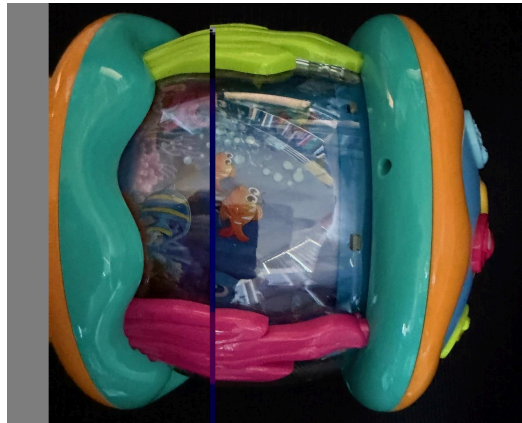
Sage Series 18" C2M 4-Leg Chair

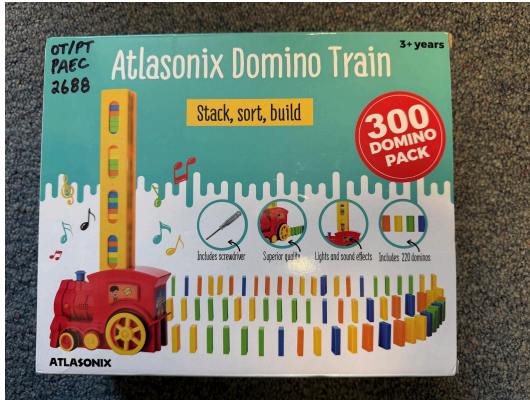


Ocean Rotating Projector Down



Ocean Rotating Projector Up





Domino Train



Sorting Fidgets - Square



Light Box and Filaments

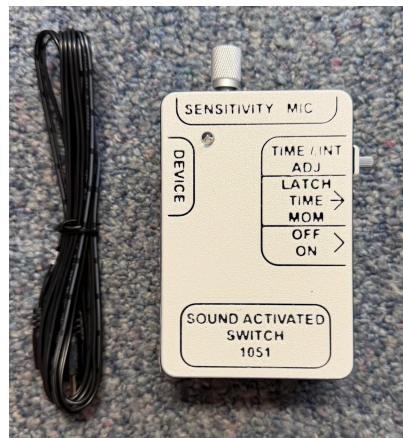




Rolling Ball Car Ramp



Go Talk 20 Lite Touch



Sound Activation Switch



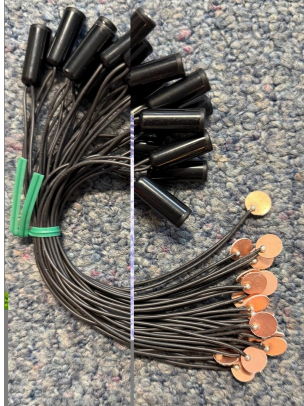
Cube Chair Tray



Adapted Bluetooth Speaker



Talkable 2 for VI



Battery Interrupters

7-Message Take N'Talk Go! Board

Transfer Belt



LumiPets Bear



Dog



Owl



Interactive Light Tower - changes colors

Prom Pictures of Set-Up



Entrance





Corsages and boutonnieres for alumni that the SLPs did with students



Photo Station of Prom Pictures



Ann - SLP, Julia - PT, and Jill - SW

PAEC Psychology Department

Dr. Michael Cermak attended the quarterly ISPA Governing Board meeting on April 25, 2026. Dr. Cermak, as president elect, led discussion on leadership development and helped facilitate training on advocacy for school psychologists. Dr. Cermak will step into the president's role officially on June 13, 2026.

Ms. Annamaria Iarrapino continues to help facilitate MTSS programming at Riley Intermediate School. Ms. Iarrapino helps with data collection and working with small groups of students on social-emotional, academic, and behavioral skills.

Ms. Melissa Gomez, bilingual school psychologist for Proviso East, attended a Medicaid training on April 17, 2026. She will share information from that at the upcoming psych department meeting on May 15, 2026.

Ms. Dayle Ashley Harding, PAEC Early Childhood psychologist, continues to coordinate with StarNet regarding the roll out for the TPBA-3 assessment. It looks like now the new play-based assessment will be ready for publication in the winter of 2026.

Dr. Michael Cermak continues to provide individualized and small group support with students from grades 3-8 at Sunnyside Intermediate and MacArthur Middle Schools. Dr. Cermak is currently helping two 8th grade students at MacArthur with planning for high school and providing mentorship. He also regularly works with a group of 3-4 7th grade students on emotional regulation.

Ms. Shabeeh Syed, advanced practicum student at The Chicago School, met with Dr. Cermak regarding placement for next year. Ms. Syed lives in Maywood and is excited to experience all of the PAEC programs and work throughout the co-operative with Dr. Cermak.

PAEC Social Work Department

1. PAEC School Social Workers who have agreed to work the extended school year are as follows:
 - *Ms. Niane Serrano, MSW – PAEC Elementary/E.C.
 - *Ms. Temika Peace, MSW – PAEC Therapeutic High School
 - *Ms. Haviland Byrd, MSW – PAEC Center School
 - *Ms. Nicole Pena, MSW – PAEC Academy
2. Ms. Nicole Peña, MSW (PAEC School Social Worker-PAEC Academy) has facilitated small/whole classroom groups and individual sessions and has focused on the following topics: Coping Strategies, Self-Advocacy Skills, and Earth Day. Ms. Peña has collaborated with OT and SLP for whole classroom group activities. Additionally, Ms. Peña is stationed/assists with daily student arrivals/departures, provides daily check-ins/check-outs and has collaborated with Ms. Kline in facilitating the Kindness Week's activities and staff/student apparel.
3. Ms. Monette Carlos-Barnes, LCSW (PAEC School Worker-PAEC E.C. Program) has been working with the children in her social skills group on the following topics: Problem-Solving, Learning to Share, Taking Turns and How to Make Friends. In the autism classroom, Ms. Carlos has been working on Labeling Feelings and Practicing Parallel Play (allowing others in their space). Additionally, as the Co-Chair of the PAEC School Social Work Department's In-service Committee, Ms. Carlos collaborated with Ms. Pirrello in coordinating/scheduling the last professional development topic for the 2026-27 school year.
4. Mr. Patrick Rossi, LCSW, and Ms. Niane Serrano, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the PAEC Elementary Students and have covered the following topics: learning how to identify big feelings and ways to calm those feelings; learning the difference between bullying and joking around; dealing with angry feelings; the difference between tattling and telling; coping skills, social media, digital safety & mental health, circle of control and transitioning from 8th grade to high school. Ms. Serrano and Mr. Rossi, also, assisted with Autism Awareness Spirit Week activities. Additionally, Ms. Serrano is assisting with the planning and coordination of the K-4th grades upcoming field trips.
5. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW, Ms. Donna Kuchera, MSW, Ms. Tanajiah Fields, MSW, Ms. Ali Kagan, MSW and Mr. Elijah Arons (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: emotional regulation; drug/alcohol use/abuse; accountability for behaviors/actions; conflict resolution, and preparing for life after high school graduation, effective communication; building relationships; learning to be respectful and earn respect; learning to listen when others speak and learning gratitude. Social Workers continually contact parents to address care coordination and to provide additional resource information for parents to consider regarding outside mental health needs, drug/alcohol use/abuse; food and housing needs.
6. Ms. Cecilia Feliciano, MSW 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 take part in the PEHS MTSS team, which meets weekly to provide interventions to students with attendance and academic concerns. Topics covered in their individual and/or group

sessions include: regulation of emotions, self-advocacy, hygiene concerns, and coping strategies. Ms. Peace and Ms. Feliciano continue to meet with their grade level teams weekly to discuss specific students who may be struggling academically, have poor attendance and are behaviorally challenging. Additionally, Ms. Feliciano and Ms. Peace attended the National Child Traumatic Stress Management Network training at Proviso West High School.

7. Ms. Haviland Byrd, MSW and Ms. Elivette Agosto, MSW (PAEC School Social Worker-Proviso West High School) continues to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and have been addressing communication skills, conversational exchanges, interviewing skills, body language, social cues, tone/volume and coping strategies. Periodically, both social workers provide drop-in social work services and support for various general education students in need, when the Proviso West school social workers are not available. Additionally, they have been completing student annual reviews, initials and re-evaluations. Ms. Agosto is an active participant of District 209's Language Task Force Committee. Ms. Agosto and Ms. Bryd attended the National Child Traumatic Stress Management Network training at Proviso West High School.
8. Ms. Anna Landmeier, LCSW, Ms. Tanajiah Fields, MSW and Ms. Jill Collins, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Center School) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseloads. Topics the social workers have been covering during their classroom social work groups include: Kindness, Strengths & Weakness, Mindfulness, Self-Advocacy Skills, Decision Making Skills, Selecting Appropriate Emotions to Fit the Situation, Learning Verbal Cues, Modeling Coping Strategies, Practicing Door Greetings (i.e., door knocking, eye contact, social greeting, personal space, etc.), and Prom Corsages/Boutonniere craft activity. Additionally, Ms. Collins, Ms. Landmeier and Ms. Fields are active participants of the PAEC Center School Special Events Committee in assisting with the planning of Prom, Graduation, April/May school-wide events, and student field trips. The social workers continue to provide resources to parents/staff regarding day programs, guardianship application process, vocational support, therapy support, staff support/mentoring and safety protocols.
9. Ms. Kenya Dockens, LCSW (PAEC School Social Worker-Hillside School) and Mr. Elijah Arons (PAEC Social Work Intern) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the students at Hillside School. The 4th grade group continues to focus on Practicing Self-Control in various settings. The 6th grade girls group continues to work on Self-Love practices. The 6th grade Keep the Peace Classroom group is focusing on Understanding Boundaries and the 7th grade group is focusing on Organizational Tools and Resources.
10. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW, (PAEC Lead School Social Worker) has coordinated scheduling with Mr. Phil Schneeberger, of Proviso Public Partnership, to do Quarterly Presentations for Teens during the 2026-2027 School year in the PAEC Therapeutic High School program. Tentative Wednesday dates chosen for the quarterly presentations are: October 14, 2026, December 2, 2026, February 3, 2027 and April 4, 2027. Ms. Pirrello continues to interview school social work candidates for potential hire for the 2026-27 school year. Topics to be covered by Mr. Schneeberger are TBD. Ms. Pirrello and Ms. Carlos secured Erin's Law dates for the 2026-27 school year with Victor Paccini for the following school programs: PAEC Early Childhood, PAEC Center School, PAEC Elementary and PAEC High School. The dates chosen are: Oct. 19, 2026 (PAEC H.S and PAEC Elementary) and October 20, 2026 (PAEC Center and Early Childhood). It should be noted that the PAEC Academy Program has decided to opt out of the Erin's Law Presentation Program, as they will determine how this mandated topic will be covered during the 2026-27 school year.
11. The PAEC Social Work Department In-Services schedule for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year is as follows:

Date: Friday, September 18, 2026
Time: 10am-1:00pm
Topic: Working with Homeless Youth
Speaker: Mr. Marion Hardiman of Youth Out Services
Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm
Event: PAEC SW Dept. Meeting (Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW)

Date: Friday, October 9, 2026
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm
Topic: Artificial Intelligence in Behavioral/Mental Health: Top Ethics & Risk Management Challenges
Speaker: Dr. Frederic G. Reamer, Ph.D of School of Social Work, Rhode Island College

Date: Friday, November 13, 2026
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm
Topic: Trauma Behaviors in School: Navigating Student & Staff Needs
Speaker: Ms. Melinda Gronen, LCSW of M Gronen Counseling

Date: Friday, January 15, 2027
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm
Topic: Food for Thought: Food Themed Trauma & Specific Interventions
Speaker: Mr. Brian Bethel, LPCC-S, RPT-S, LCDC III of Interplay Counseling & Consultations, LLC
Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm
Event: PAEC SW Dept. Meeting (Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW)

Date: Friday, February 26, 2027
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm
Topic: Tools School Social Workers Can Utilize to Support Students
Speaker: Ms. Becky of Play Training Resources

Date: Friday, April 23, 2027
Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm
Topic: Social Work/Counseling Services for Students with Autism/On the Spectrum: Pre-K through High School
Speaker: Ms. Jennifer Hein & Ms. Linda Cerveka of Soaring Eagle Academy
Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm
Event: PAEC SW Dept. Meeting (Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW)

12. The next PAEC School Social Work Department's 2024-25 Professional Development will be:

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026
Time: 10:00am-12:00pm
Speaker: Ms. Laura Cruz of Leyden Family Services
Topic: Crisis Prevention & Response: Understanding the SASS Protocol
Time: 1:00pm-1:45pm –PAEC School Social Work Department Pot-Luck
2:00pm-3:00pm – PAEC School Social Work Department Meeting
Location: PAEC Center Board Room

PAEC Speech/Language Department

- The SLPs attended a department meeting on Thursday, April 23rd.
- Lead SLP and several SLPs from PAEC Center volunteered to assist at the PAEC prom on Tuesday, April 21st. Everyone enjoyed watching the students and the alumni have such a great time! The SLP department made corsages and boutonnieres with their classes in the week leading up to prom and had fun seeing them being worn proudly. Extras were made for alumni participants who wanted to wear one.
- 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 is working on gathering information on student enrollment to make assignments for ESY.



PAEC Special Olympics

The High School team and 2 Tigers teams competed in the State Qualifying Tournament at Hinsdale South on April 18th. Our High school Blazers won first place and will be advancing to the State tournament in June at ISU. Our Tigers 1 won third place and our Tigers 2 won fourth place.

We are happy to report that they will be joining the Blazers at the State Tournament in June. All our soccer teams will be competing in the State Championship.

We are continuing to have practices with our last practice being 5/20. We have a game scheduled for the Blazers and the Tigers against Cove School on May 13th.



Kindness Week Celebrations



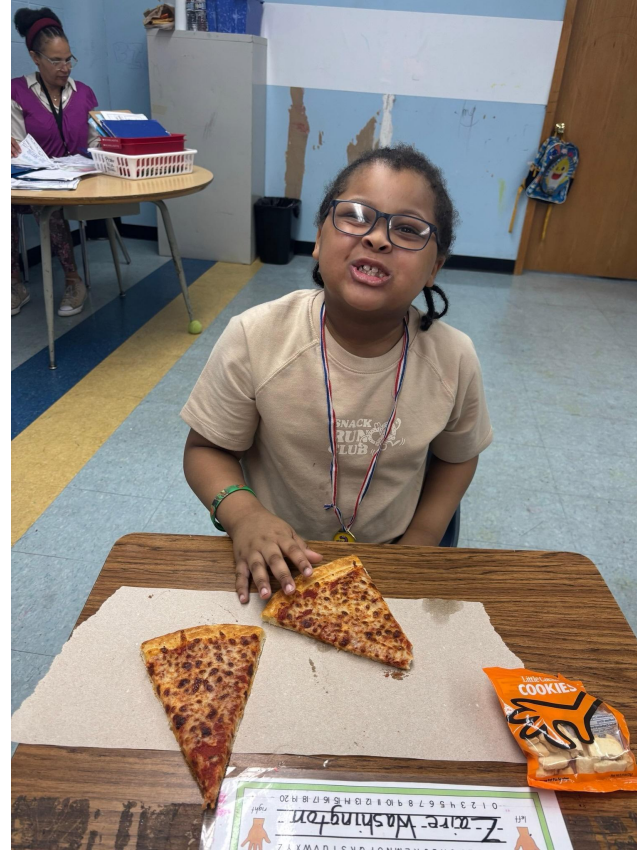
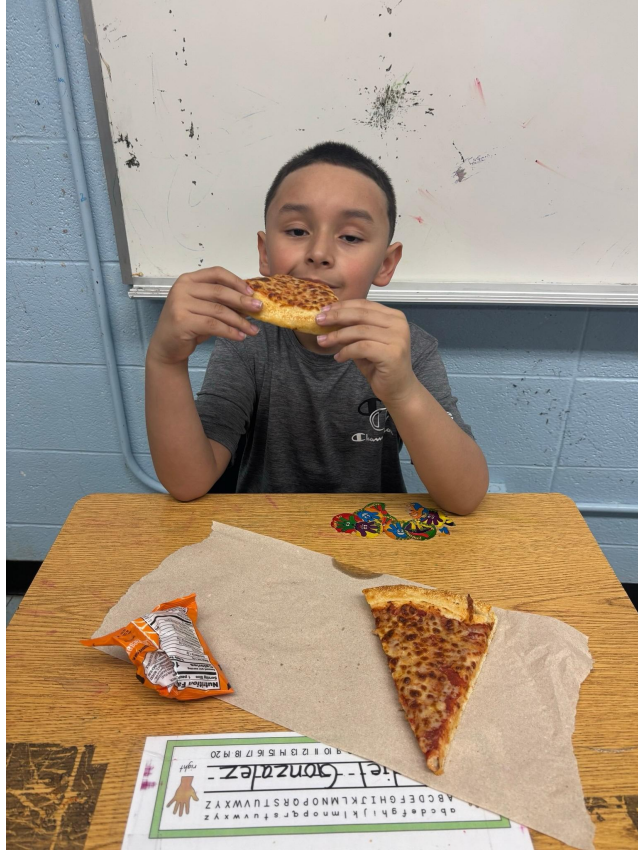
Kindness Week Celebrations



Kindness Week Celebrations



Kindness Week Celebrations



Kindness Week Celebrations



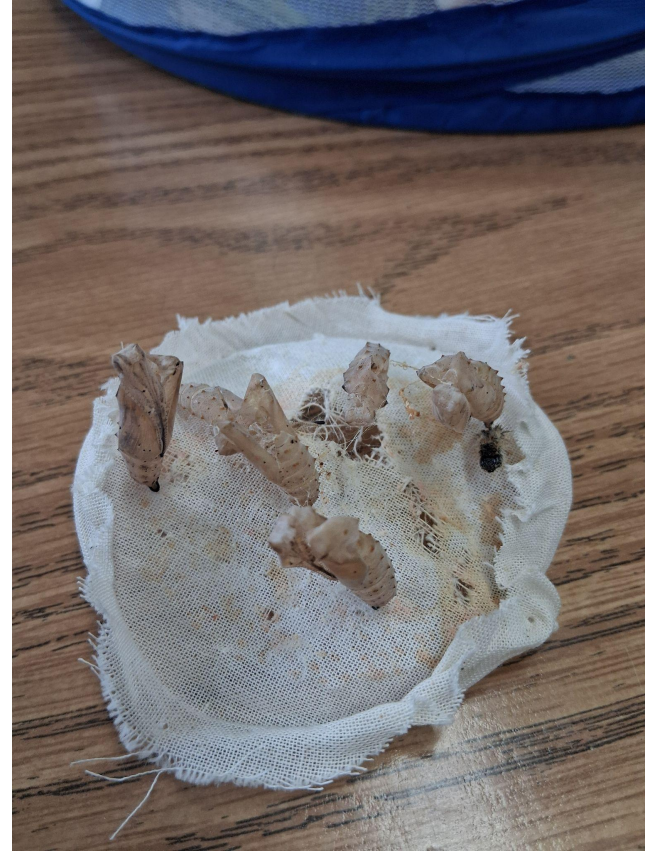
Special Olympics Regionals



Butterflies @ Academy



Butterflies @ Academy



Jamie Kramer



How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC for a total of almost five years

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy the students. It is challenging, but the kids are endearing to me, as well. I also work with a great team that I admire professionally and have fun with.

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

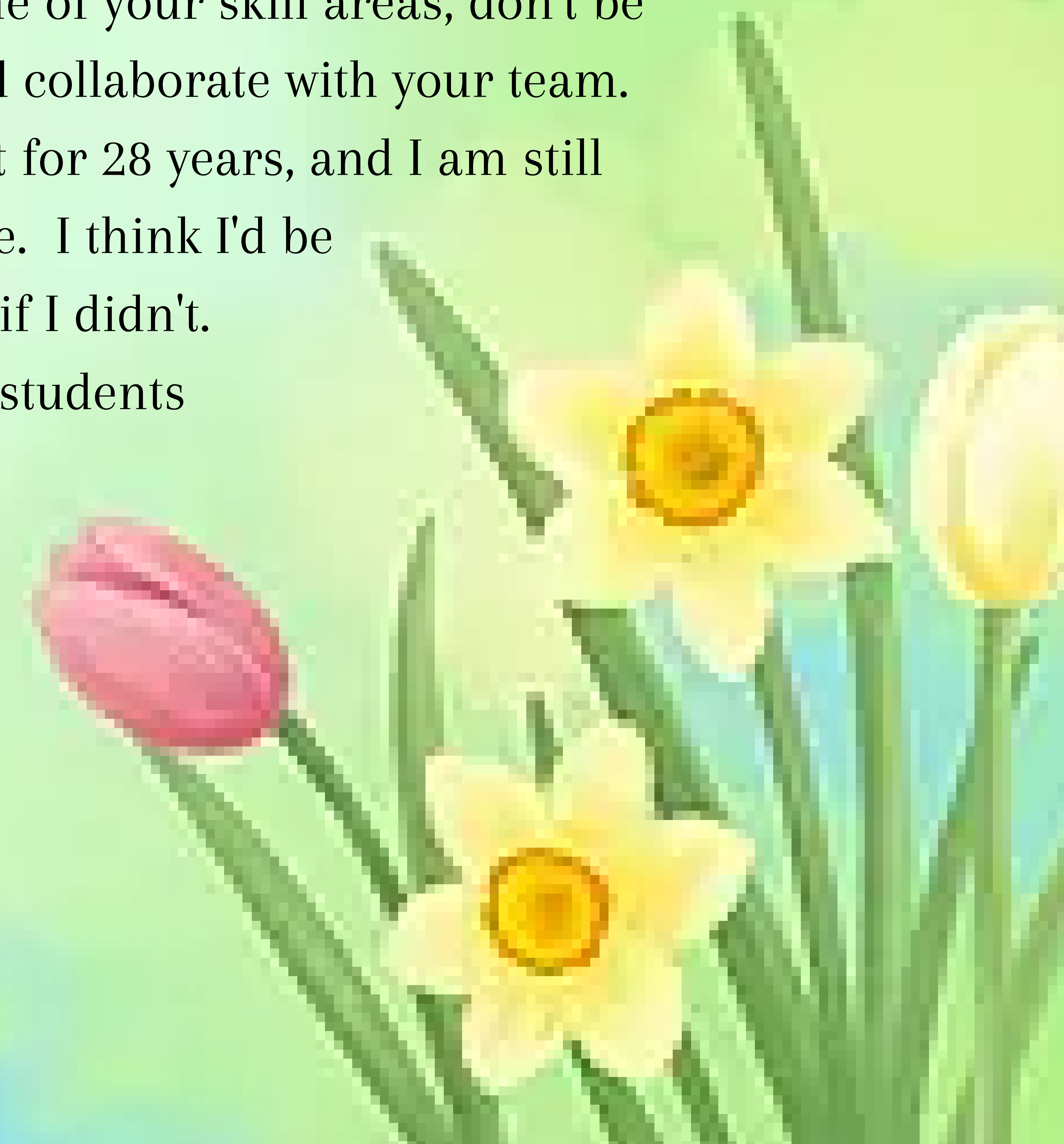
If you see your colleague struggling with a difficult situation - coming up with ideas, managing a student, etc. - be willing to lend a hand, if you can. If you don't know something or feel like you need help in one of your skill areas, don't be afraid to say so, and collaborate with your team.

I've been a therapist for 28 years, and I am still learning all the time. I think I'd be bored (and boring) if I didn't.

Have fun with your students and your team.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I have a cat named Myrtle who is always trying to control me. She's insanely jealous, and I don't know whether to be flattered or very disturbed. When we first met, I attempted to shampoo her, which resulted in me collapsing on the bathroom floor, rather injured. I also tried to capture her and put a leash on her so we could take a walk. This ended with a bad case of rug burn and a broken leash in my hand.



Kentzell Taylor



How long have you been at PAEC?

I have proudly served at PAEC School for 13 years, where I have dedicated my time to supporting and inspiring students.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I find great fulfillment in helping students grow, succeed, and reach their full potential.

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

Find passion for education and student development and it will drive you to make a positive impact in their lives each day.



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Outside of my professional role, I enjoy playing basketball and working out, which helps me stay active and energized. My commitment to both personal wellness and student success reflects who I am both in and out of the workplace.



Samantha Vaccarella



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Something interesting or funny about myself is that I'm an EXTREMELY sarcastic person.

I can say things with such a straight face that it's hard to distinguish if I'm joking or not with you. (But I'm ALWAYS joking around) I absolutely LOVE making people smile. Something interesting about me is I LOVE music & I LOVE going to concerts. I've met and hung out with so many musicians and famous people throughout my life. It's crazy how it just happens to me wherever I go. Somehow, somehow I always find myself in the right place at the right time. I've met and hung out with Janet Jackson, Static-X, Dave Navarro, Tommy Lee, Corey Jenkins (Chicago Bears), Crucial Conflict, Pink, PapaRoach, Iron Maiden, and so many more. I've also skated on the united center ice, road the zamboni, wore every Chicago Black Hawks championship rings, played ball on the Chicago Bulls court. Needless to say there is never a dull moment in my crazy world I love in LOL

How long have you been at PAEC?

This is my 1st year as a PAEC Employee.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

What I enjoy most about my job is being in a position where I am able to be an advocate for them because I care so much for them and their well being. To be in a position to guide them in making better choices, advocating for them when they feel like they don't have someone who sees them as who they are, not just what a paper says because of past choices they've made that aren't proud of, and being able to create a safe place that enables them grow so they can build their confidence, find themselves and know that they have someone who truly cares for them and their future. It's a blessing to be someone who can have such a positive impact on these kids. At the end of the day, I care for each and everyone one of my students as if they were my own child.

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

My advice to someone who is in my position is to really go all in with your dedication to being a positive role model for these kids. Letting them know they aren't alone, that they have someone who truly cares for them despite past choices and will advocate for them when it's hard for them to advocate for themselves.

Phillip Gibbs



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.
most at the school wouldn't know I'm a legendary DJ/engineer
and engineer and radio POWER 92 Fm

How long have you been at PAEC?
Since April 2024.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?
helping the children get better in life.

What advice would you give to others in your
position to help them excel?
Show love support and have plenty of patience.



Tyrone Sally



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Great Sense of humor

How long have you been at PAEC?

This is my first year working with PAEC

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

How more involved and interacting I am with the kids

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

One piece of advice that I give to my peers while applying for the position is to have patience and put yourself in their(the students) shoes.



Perla Escarcega Avitia



How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC for about 8 years.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I love to see my students grow and become independent.

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

The advice I would give is to be patient. Some of our students carry a lot of baggage and we really do not know how they are treated at home. We need to create a safe place for them.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I love to spend time with my husband, hike, travel, read and meditate any time I can. I have hiked the Appalachian trail and it was magical.



Christine Christianson



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I am obsessed with the medical series The Pitt.

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC for 13 years.

What do you enjoy about your job/position? I have been able to work with the same students for multiple years. I really enjoy watching them grow and succeed over time. I feel that I grow along with them and learn from them in return. I also enjoy the great support from our staff. We all work together as a team.

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

When working with students it's important to be flexible and patient. Many times things will not go as planned so you need to accept that you have to come up with a "plan B". But most importantly enjoy your students because they are the reason you are there.

Vicente Izidro-Johnson



How long have you been at PAEC?

I started at PAEC in September 2021 as a Program Assistant and moved into teaching after earning my teacher license. Almost five years now.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I really enjoy working with students from different backgrounds and supporting their growth. Seeing them build confidence and push through challenges is the best part of my job. I also appreciate how supportive our team is.

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

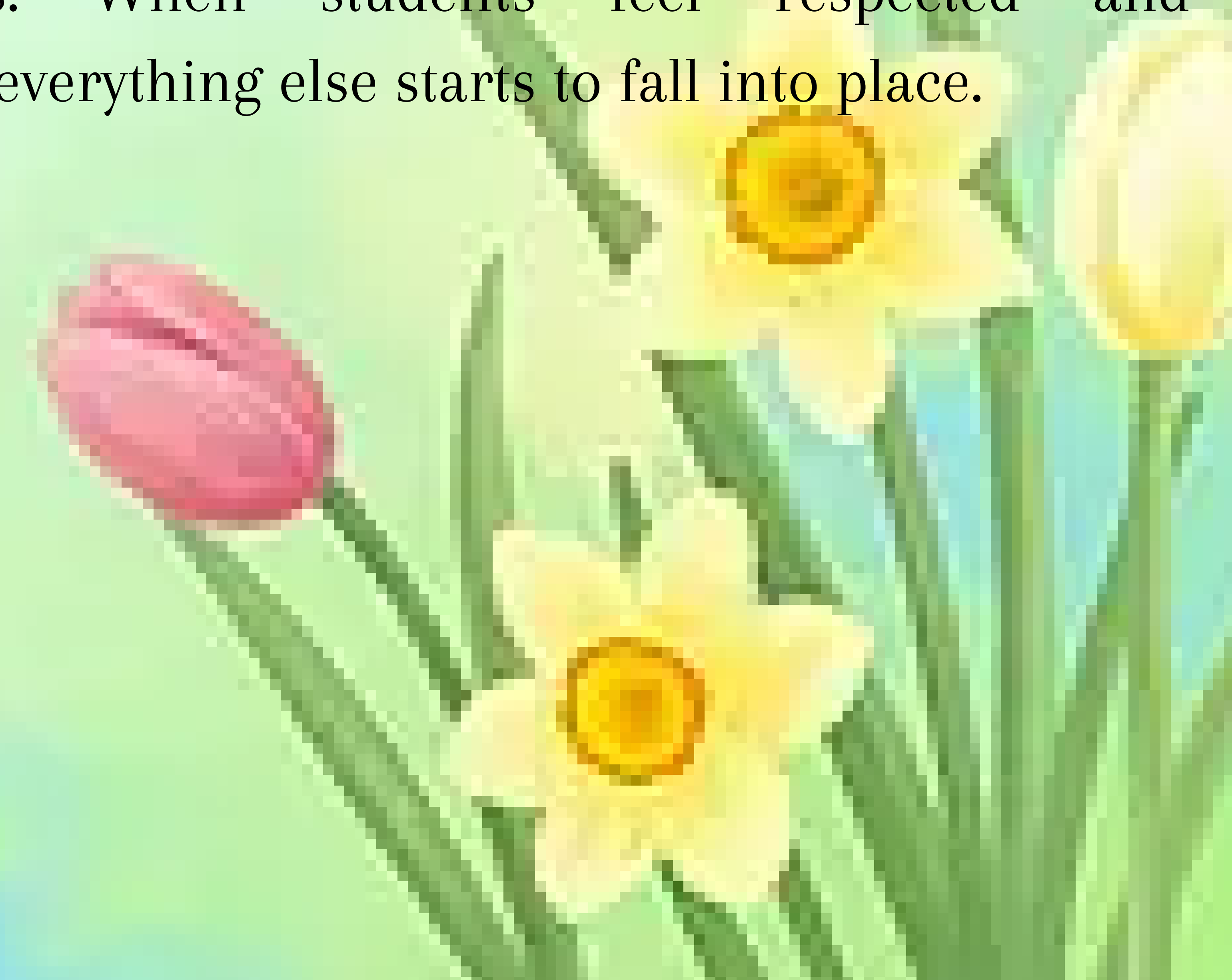
Be patient with your students and with yourself. Stay flexible, keep learning, and focus on building strong relationships. When students feel respected and understood, everything else starts to fall into place.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

English is not my first language, so I sometimes say things in a way that makes my students pause and look at me for a second.

It keeps things interesting in the classroom and reminds all of us that learning never really stops.

I started learning English when I moved here in 2020, so my students know they are not the only ones still learning.



Regina Smith



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Something interesting is that I am always smiling.

Life is short and I rather live it in peace.

I just learned how to do Sudoku puzzles and I love that.

I read paper books over the summer. I find it very relaxing.

How long have you been at PAEC?

11 years

What do you enjoy about your job/position? I enjoy being a vocational coordinator because it gives me the opportunity to work with young adults and teach them real-life skills that support their independence and transition into adulthood. It's especially rewarding to see students gain competitive employment and graduate from the transition program with a sense of success and confidence in their future.

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

I would advise them to be organized, have a game plan, be patient and vigilant, then watch the rewards come in.



Ja'Lecia Black



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.
Something interesting about me is I have been growing my locs for 4 years & they have been dyed Pink, Blue, and now Blonde and Brown. And something funny about me is

I almost laugh at everything,
so if you hear giggling down the hallway, it's probably me.

How long have you been at PAEC?

I will have completed my 2nd year being at PAEC after this 25-26 school year ends :)

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I think what I enjoy most is seeing the progress & growth made from each child. To see what they are capable of doing after our endless efforts of repetition within our routine. They make me so happy when they retain a new skill! I also enjoy the staff I work with. They make my day enjoyable and I look forward to coming to work to giggle and cackle in our room

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

Some advice I could give to others in my position would be push for growth. Don't stay stagnant and comfortable, I went to school to further my education to become a teacher and although, I can be comfortable with where I am in my position I wanted the challenge of going to college, juggling work, and caring for my newest addition! It'll all pay off in the end. It's NEVER too late.

Diana Dranko



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.
I love spending time with my family and friends. I'm always happy when I have a good book to read and a cat on my lap. One quote I really live by is, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." It inspires me to stay curious, seek new adventures, and learn from people and places different from my own experiences.

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC Academy for 5 years, and it has been a rewarding journey of growth, learning, and building meaningful relationships with students, families, and colleagues.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

What I enjoy most is witnessing those "eureka" moments when students discover a new way to learn a skill or connect with something that sparks their curiosity. Seeing a student gain confidence and realize they are capable is one of the most fulfilling parts of this work.

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

Give everyone grace—students, families, coworkers, and yourself. Focus on building strong relationships, because trust is the foundation of learning and collaboration. Most importantly, take care of your mental health so you can continue to show up as your best self for others.

Celeste Jamison



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Something interesting about me is that I collect gift cards—it's now a hobby! Over the past five years, I've collected more than 500 gift cards. Some are gifted to me and others I pick up while shopping, which is another hobby of mine.

It's a fun and unexpected way I've built a collection over time.

I'm drawn to the designs—especially the seasonal ones or unique styles that catch my eye. So now, every time I see a cute or different gift card,

I have to have it.

Friends and family add to the collection, and shopping doesn't help!!

How long have you been at PAEC?

5 Years

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy the opportunity to make a difference in the daily lives of students. Working in a special needs school allows me to be supportive where students can thrive. As an administrative assistant and in charge of food service, I take pride in making sure that meals are organized, and meet the needs of all students, I'm a people person and also enjoy working with staff, as it keeps me engaged and allows me to problem-solve throughout the day, which allows me to work with both students and staff.

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

To excel in this role, stay organized, communicate and plan ahead. Be flexible and patient, as things can change quickly depending on the day or the month. A strong relationship with staff, and always keep students' needs and well-being as the top priority.

Melinda Kelly



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I love to laugh and making others laugh!

TO KNOW ME IS TO LOVE ME!!!!

How long have you been at PAEC?

I've been working for PAEC for 31 years! I've worked in various programs, beginning in the intermediate cross category, severe profound, primary cross category, severe profound, and currently in the Transition Program.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

Every program that I have, and Am working in has been my ministry. To care for, teach and nurture each individual student to meet their needs. However, working in the Transition Program has been most challenging and rewarding on so many levels. In this program, I've had the privilege of getting to know each individual student on a personal level. Working with the Transition team in getting each student to ADULTING 101. From Fostering independence, building everyday life skills, watching them go out and become gainfully employed, to see the CONFIDENCE that comes over the students is such a great feeling!

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

I would advise others to lead, teach do whatever you from a pure heart of love, respect and understanding for the students, considering yourself.

Ken Jude



Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Aside from being a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and its Illinois chapter, I get spooked easily! I mean, not in a frightful manner, but when I'm focused on a task and I feel for certain I've been the only one in the room, then when someone walks or pops in, or just says something that's not even loud at all, I startle like I've seen a ghost (which is a story for another time!). If I assume any martial arts postures at you, don't be alarmed. It's merely my reflex reaction to feeling jolted. And it's okay to have a good long laugh at my expense, I won't take it personally. Btw, the enclosed photo was taken under a gigantic hanging sphere- I'm assuming the moon- at the Universidad de Porto in Portugal, December 2024. I took the picture under the structure, but I wanted to share how I was so over-the-moon (get it?) with my traveling that time!

How long have you been at PAEC?

I'm new-ish! While I've known and worked with many of our school staff in the past, I was given the opportunity to rejoin the PAEC work family as a direct hire physical therapist (PT) only this past Fall. I was a contractual employee through an agency from 1998-2017. I currently serve the cooperative on a part-time basis. Shout out to our PAEC Center students- WOOHOO!!! Thank you so much for the honor and privilege of being included as one of the PAEC Employee Spotlights I this year!!

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

In tandem with working directly with and alongside our students and their parents as their school-based PT, I find it quite rewarding to be able to work together and collaborate with the school and district teams, make suggestions or offer strategies to address students' needs, and problem-solve with the

Page 1 of 2

teams, especially if my skills, abilities, and competencies as a PT in the educational setting is making an impact on anyone to their benefit. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns you need me to tackle. I'm mostly at PAEC Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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

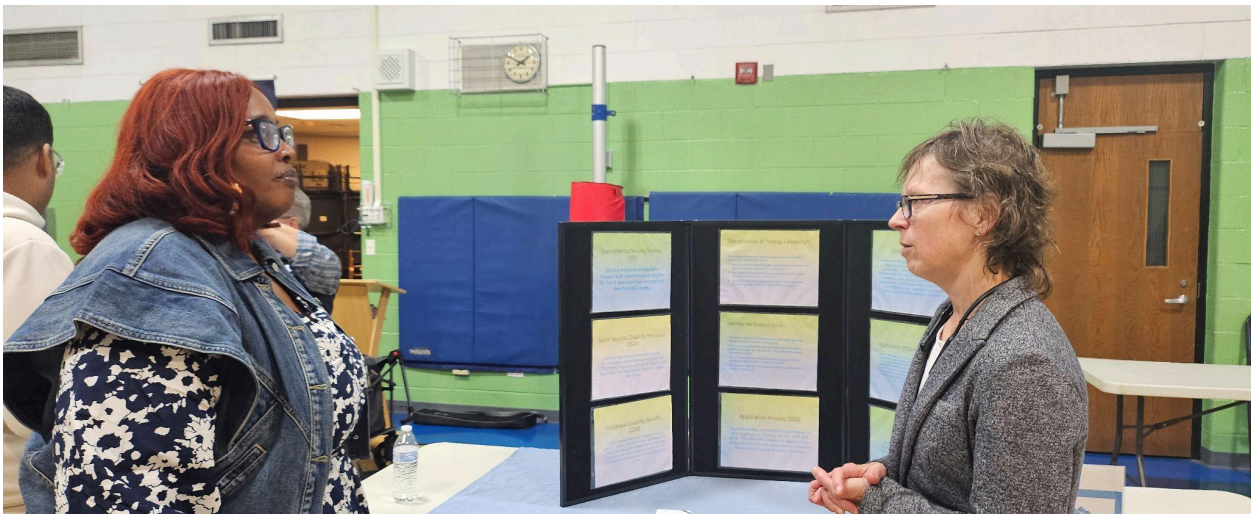
I would challenge us to look closely and reflect on the capacity of a child to effectively cope with, adjust, or recover from stress or adversity. How we respond to trauma matters. I'm recalling from one of my required on-boarding modules this statement from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University: "The single most common factor for children who develop resilience is at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult". Having at least one adult who is crazy about a child who has experienced trauma or is living adverse situations presently (who hasn't?!), who supports them in becoming healthy, willing/ready to learn, and actively engaging. The power of that relationship should also be at the heart of my practice in our school community (pointing back at myself here). As an APTA credentialed clinical instructor, this is what I would guide any of our student PT to internalize and demonstrate as well when they are assigned with us during their clinical internship.

PAEC High School Prom

Pictures Courtesy of Mr. M. James & Mr. W. Porter



Transition Community Day Fair



STAFF APPRECIATION DAY



FIELD DAY

Courtesy of PLCCA



Students' Strategic Planning High School



Students' Strategic Planning Academy & Elementary



MEETING WITH SPEAKER WELCH

