

HONORARY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, After eight years of exemplary and compassionate leadership, Gilberto Piedrahita, endearingly referred to as Principal P, is stepping down as principal of Jordan Community School; and

WHEREAS, Principal P is being recognized for his acceptance of a new role as Chief of Network 8 at Chicago Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Gilberto Piedrahita first came to Chicago from Colombia, where he was the youngest of 11 children; and

WHEREAS, Trained as a dentist, Mr. Piedrahita found his true passion for educating children; and

WHEREAS, He started his career in education as a bilingual teacher; he then went to serve as the Assistant Principal at Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy before becoming Principal at Jordan in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership at Jordan Community School, the school moved to Level 1+ rating through his dedicated work in collaboration with Jordan's amazing teachers; and

WHEREAS, Beyond growing test scores and rankings, Jordan flourished as a place where students, families and staff wanted to contribute, participate, and attend; and

WHEREAS, Principal P was a warm, caring presence at Jordan, who got to know parents and students and was a frequent visitor to classrooms, where he spent time with the students and offered positive feedback and encouragement to teachers; and

WHEREAS, Building collaborative rapport with teachers and staff, he ushered in new programs and opportunities to Jordan, including cultural celebrations, attendance raffles, enhanced after-school programs, sports, clubs, and the Positive Behavior Incentive System that motivated students to uphold Jordan's core values of respect, responsibility and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Principal P consistently attended the school's activities to foster a welcoming and encouraging environment where the students felt empowered to succeed; and

WHEREAS, To support students social and emotional learning, Principal P encouraged the use of SEL programs taught with fidelity and consistency such as Calm Classroom and Second Step, as well as aided positive student and teacher relationships; and

WHEREAS, Principal P oversaw the establishment of the Social Committee in order to bring together and support teachers and paraprofessionals; and

WHEREAS, He introduced a K-2 cluster program at Jordan Community School so the most vulnerable learners had a place to flourish and grow academically; and

WHEREAS, Principal P reshaped student discipline through restorative practices and offered alternatives to suspension, which resulted in a reduction of suspensions; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership, Jordan's MTSS system was brought into Illinois state compliance, effectively meeting compliance goals early so that students receive the correct level of support; and

WHEREAS, Principal P hired an interventionist to support students struggling academically and engaged teachers in the Branching Minds platform to bridge academic gaps; and

WHEREAS, To improve communication and engagement at Jordan, Principal P launched a monthly parent newsletter and the Weekly Buzz, which is emailed out to all members of the school community; and

WHEREAS, Gilberto Piedrahita's unwavering leadership, passion for education, commitment to embody Jordan Community School's core values, and ability to build a strong school community has had an undeniably had a positive impact on all the neighbors of the 49th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Gilberto Piedrahita will take his experience and leadership skills to his new role in Network 8, where he will advise and guide educators to build stronger schools; and

WHEREAS, Alderwoman Mara E. Hadden, the Jordan community, and all neighbors in the 49th Ward will forever cherish the memories of working with Principal P and are eternally grateful for his leadership in transforming Jordan Community School; and

WHEREAS, We recognize this bittersweet time in the Jordan community knowing the profound impact that Principal P had, while understanding that he will now be able to impart that on a broader network of schools within the Chicago Public School systems; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this thirteenth day of September, 2023, do hereby thank Gilberto Piedrahita for his service, dedication, and leadership to the Jordan school community and congratulate him on his new role as Chief of Network 8; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Gilberto Piedrahita.



Maria E. Hadden
Alderwoman, 49th Ward