

Debra Thompson

From: Stephanie Pawuk <spawuk@pcsd.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Assembly; Debra Thompson
Subject: This letter may be read at the assembly meeting regarding the change in age requirements at Parks and Rec

Dear Assembly Members,

I just wanted to write a message in support of not requiring an age of 10 years old for a child to swim at the pool on their own. I have 3 kids and all 3 have been a part of Viking Swim Club and are excellent swimmers. One is 7 years old (8 this fall) and she will be devastated to learn that she is no longer able to swim on her own despite having done so this past year. There has been such an increase in her independence and confidence in herself that has been gained through swimming independently. I will likely try to get reimbursed for our family pass if this goes through. I'm a responsible parent that drops them off to swim and picks them up on time. Never once have I stood in the locker room while they were changing to make sure no bad people were in there. I simply tell them it's time to go and wait in the lobby. Also, I used to be a lifeguard at Parks and Rec. During my two years there we never had an issue with a child being molested in the locker room. As a staff we paid attention if we felt there were any questionable characters in the facility and did more walk throughs. If swimmers were misbehaving there were consequences like sitting out for a specified amount of time. If misbehavior continued I called parents to let them know. The pool was a safe place for kids to go that didn't have a good home life. There were about 4-5 kids that attended open swim almost daily just to have a safe place to go. I would really hate to see that come to an end. Their parents may never be functional enough to come sit at the pool or gym because they don't meet the minimum age. If this new age requirement comes into effect it will hurt those kids the most, the ones that have no other safe place to go. Who is going to stand up for the kids in our community who have no one to fight for them? That is your job as assembly members to take them under your wing and make the decision to give them a safe place to go even if it's just for an hour or two per day. I hope you will take this to heart as you make your decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pawuk
spawuk@pcsd.us