

Gautho, Julia

From: Judy McGooden <jlmoptix@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2024 4:02 PM
To: City Council
Cc: sturnbull@suesd.org
Subject: Agenda item 8B- re Junior Guard registration process

Dear Council members-

I am reaching out to you this evening regarding the registration process that has been in place since 2022. There is concern in the community that this particular process is not serving the local community as it should. Having served on the Soquel Union School Board, it saddens me to hear of local children not being able to access this great program because of some families that register as Capitola residents, who are in fact, not. Every effort should be made to insure that the children of this community and SUESD are allowed priority in registration . Years ago when our children were in guards, we parents had to supply proof of residence- utility bill, mortgage statement, etc. Yes, it was more cumbersome but did a great job of keeping the local families in the program. We used to camp out in front of Jade St overnight to insure our kids got in! I'm not suggesting that particular means, but am requesting that greater effort is applied to the registration process. Perhaps a new vendor for the Rec Department is in order if they can't accommodate. Luckily, Capitola residents supported an increase in sales tax that could be helpful in offsetting additional expense. I do support that returning guards are allowed early registration; that SUESD students, per prior JPA with SUESD, be allowed the reduced resident fee rate and equal access to the program with Capitola residents. The final slots to be open registration. A system of verifying true home address should be implemented so that the children of this community get to experience a wonderful program that our grandchildren are now experiencing.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Judy McGooden, Past President, 18 year SUESD Board member