

**The Garden District
Mazyck-Wraggborough Neighborhood Association Notes January 20, 2009**

Our first meeting of 2009 of The Garden District Mazyck-Wraggborough Neighborhood Association was Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at the Rising High Bakery.

It was announced that our President, Vangie Rainsford has been selected to receive the The Harold Koon Award. This is a City of Charleston award to honor neighborhood volunteer service, it is presented annually by the Mayor to a resident who has demonstrated continuous and outstanding volunteer service to the neighborhood in which they live. Congratulations Vangie!

The evening continued with a discussion of the future of Charleston Progressive and Buist Academy. It was brought up that the school board is holding a vote is on the handling of our schools without the input of the neighborhoods. At present, the Charleston school facilities are only utilized to 60% of capacity which, when you factor in the economy, is why the board is considering closing some schools.

Marvin Stewart, Dist 20 Constituent School Board Chairman, and a new board member, Fouchena Sheppard, were present to discuss the proposed changes. They both agreed that more time was needed to study what should be done. Our City Councilman, Robert Mitchell was present and said he was worried about all the schools in District 20.

Ms. Wanda Wright-Sheats, principal of Charleston Progressive, was not present but has talked to Vangie Rainsford and said that the elementary students are doing well.

Under discussion by the board is changing Charleston Progressive into a Montessori school, using the property to expand Buist, closing it or letting it remain the same.

Bob James moved to support Charleston Progressive be used to expand Buist if all area students now attending Charleston Progressive were accepted into Buist. This motion failed to pass.

David propped that we support it being used to enlarge Buist with preference given to area Charleston Progressive students who pass the standard tests for admittance. This was seconded by Bill Westin and passed.

2009 dues were collected and the meeting was adjourned.