TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX

Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL

Quarter ending: March 31, 2020

<u>ISSUE/description:</u> 5. EDUCATION: Local availability of higher education; teacher salaries

and benefits; crime and violence in schools; curriculum matters; method of handling poorly performing schools and teachers; school vouchers;

costs; minority concerns.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

Title Date Time/Duration Program type Description

1. Channel 3 News at 9PM 01/02/20 09:00PM/1.5 minutes News *

on WFGX

Channel 3 News at 9PM 01/08/20 09:00PM/1.6 minutes News on WFGX

** Okaloosa County schools are kicking off a new program designed to prevent suicides. The "Hope Squad" will train students to watch for at-risk students, offer friendship, and identify warning signs. The program started in a Utah school district that lost two or three students a year to suicide. After the "Hope Squad", they went nine years without a death.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM 01/23/20 09:00PM/30 seconds News on WFGX

*** A new Catholic High School for students with special needs is coming to Pensacola. Today, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee announced that Morning Star High School will open in August, on the campus of Pensacola Catholic High School.

4. Channel 3 News at 9PM 01/28/20 09:00PM/2.2 minutes News **** on WFGX

**** It's an ongoing battle between teachers and students – "Smart watches" in the classrooms in Santa Rosa County. Superintendent Time Wryosdick sent a memo to parents last week saying that students are getting distracted, often by parents texting or calling their children in the middle of class, or parents listening in on their children's classes through the listening feature. This listening can cause a host of issues because students are guaranteed a level of privacy so they can participate and share openly.

^{*} The new year may bring historic changes to the private and charter school systems in Florida, if Senate Bill 632 gets signed into law. That bill would bring private and charter standards in line with that of public schools, meaning teachers at those schools would need to be certified and hold at least a bachelor's degree. Those schools would need to participate in standardized testing, meet state-imposed academic standards and be graded on the same system as public schools. We spoke with Santa Rosa County Schools Superintendent Time Wyrosdick, who supports the bill because his district alone puts about a million tax dollars to private and charter schools.

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5. The Armstrong Williams Show	02/02/20	12:00PM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	****

***** This week we interviewed Sharon Bush, responsible for Public Relations and raising capital funds for the Cristo Rey School, a network of schools that integrates a rigorous college preparatory education with four years of professional work experience. The schools service inner-city youth in 22 states nationwide, but educators in all areas are interested in the success of the program.

6. Channel 3 News at 9PM 03/24/20 09:00PM/1-minute News ******
on WFGX

****** Students in Okaloosa County are in the process of getting laptops for online learning. Superintendent Marcus Chambers said over 17 thousand Chromebooks and other devices will be handed out, and the District has also been working to get internet access to families who need it.