

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: December 31, 2006

ISSUE/description: 2. 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.):

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time/Duration</u> | <u>Program type</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. In Focus | 12/10/06 | 11:30AM/30 minutes | Public Affairs | * |

* Assistant Superintendent of Escambia County Schools Ronnie Arnold, and Assistant Superintendent in charge of Operations, Shawn Dennis, discussed the plan to rezone and consolidate schools. Due to shifting populations in the county, the school district is trying to streamline operations, and save some money. Their plan entails closing a number of schools, changing others from high schools to middle schools, and redistributing students. The plan has been met with resistance, especially from parents and students at Woodham High, which would become a middle school. Their arguments are largely, if not entirely, emotional. A 10 member appointed task force spent 8 months deciding how best to reshape the district, and their final plan was approved unanimously. The task force claims the changes will result in 2.5 million dollars a year in savings, and even more over the next decade. Arnold and Dennis discussed the details of the plan, which will likely get its final approval from the school board by the end of the year. They also discussed the stresses created by the Class Size Amendment, which has forced the hiring of an additional 500+ teachers, and will force the hiring of hundreds more.