

**CHARTER SCHOOL APPEAL COMMISSION**  
**Recommendation to State Board of Education, February 17, 2004**

FOUR TOWNS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARTER

Petitioner,

v.

SCHOOL BOARD OF  
POLK COUNTY

DOE Case No. 2003-957

RECOMMENDATION

On October 28, 2003, the School Board of Polk County (School Board) voted to deny the charter application of Four Towns Middle School Charter (Charter applicant). The School Board's letter of denial was dated November 7, 2003. The Charter applicant filed this appeal on December 10, 2003. On January 29, 2004, the Charter School Appeal Commission heard the appeal of this matter. **Thereafter, the Commission voted 8 to 1 to recommend to the State Board of Education to deny the appeal of the Charter applicant.** The Commission's justifications for its recommendation were as follows:

1. The Commission voted 8 to 1 to recommend that the School Board **did not have** competent substantial evidence to support its finding that the academic design area of the application was insufficient.
2. The Commission voted 8 to 1 to recommend that the School Board **did not have** competent substantial evidence to support its finding that the student performance area of the application was insufficient.
3. The Commission voted 6 to 3 to recommend that the School Board **had** competent substantial evidence to support its finding that the accountability design area of the application was insufficient.

The Commission voted 9 to 0 to recommend that the School Board's denial of the charter application based on the insufficient accountability design area of the application **constituted statutory good cause for denial** under Section §1002.33 Florida Statute.

4. The Commission voted 5 to 4 to recommend that the School Board **had** competent substantial evidence to support its finding that the ESE educational plan area of the application was insufficient.

The Commission voted 8 to 1 to recommend that the School Board's denial of the charter application based on the insufficient ESE educational plan area of the application **constituted statutory good cause for denial** under Section §1002.33 Florida Statute.

5. The Commission voted 8 to 1 to recommend that the School Board **did not have** competent substantial evidence to support its finding that the audit & accountability area of the application was insufficient.
6. The Commission voted 9 to 0 to recommend that the School Board **did not have** competent substantial evidence to support its finding that the governance & management area of the application was insufficient.

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Commissioner Jim Horne, Chair  
Charter School Appeal Commission

FILED with the Agency Clerk of the Department of Education this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2004.

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AGENCY CLERK