

THE ROUND LAKE  
ELEMENTARY  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
CONVERSION  
APPEAL COMMISSION  
ANALYSIS &  
RECOMMENDATION

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APPEAL OF  
“THE ROUND LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”  
CHARTER SCHOOL CONVERSION PROPOSAL  
DENIED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
LAKE COUNTY

APPEAL OF THE "ROUND LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"  
CHARTER SCHOOL CONVERSION

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**SUMMARY OF PROCEDURAL TIME LINE**

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There are no procedural anomalies in this Appeal as represented by the following timeline of events.

On or before 01 October 2002	Applicant submits proposal.
28 October 2002	Applicant meets with Charter School Review Committee to provide additional information
06 November 2002	Applicant receives letter from Charter School Review Committee with their decision to recommend to the Board that the charter school application for Round Lake Elementary School be approved.
21 November 2002	School Board workshop convenes to hear Charter School Review Committee recommendations
25 November 2002	School Board votes 4-1 to deny Round Lake Elementary School conversion.
26 November 2002	District school board submits denial in writing.
26 December 2002	Appeal is filed with Agency Clerk of the Department of Education.
28 January 2002	District school board responds to Appeal.

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**SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DENIAL BY LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

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1. **The approval of an additional conversion charter school would divert approximately \$687,000 from the operating budget of the school district.**
2. **Uncertain funding due to the outcome of the recent election to reduce class size**

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**EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT AND/OR REFUTE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY  
LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

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**(1) LOSS OF \$687,000 FROM THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

There is nothing in statute to support this reason for denial as GOOD CAUSE

**(2) UNCERTAIN FUNDING DUE TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE AMMENDAMENT PASSAGE**

There is nothing in statute to support this reason for denial as GOOD CAUSE

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**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

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Based on the available evidence to support and/or refute the objections outlined in the School Board's "Written Reasons for Denial" and its "Arguments in Response to Notice of Appeal," the following is a summary of findings:

- 1) Charter School Review Committee recommended to the Board that the charter school application for Round Lake Elementary School be approved.
- 2) There were no concerns regarding quality of application raised by either the Charter School Review Committee or the district school board
- 3) There is nothing in statute to support "loss from district operating budget" or "uncertain funding" as GOOD CAUSE for a charter school denial.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE APPEAL COMMISION**

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Rendered this day of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003

- 4) It is recommended that the decision of the Lake County School Board to deny the Round Lake Elementary Charter School conversion be overturned as there is nothing in statute to support "loss from district operating budget" or "uncertain funding" as GOOD CAUSE for a charter school denial.