Board members voted to approve a proposal by the Tribe, Bureau of Indian Education and state education leaders to incorporate American Indian cultural knowledge into the state's curriculum. A detailed plan to achieve these goals was developed in the report, Our Voice, Your Voice, which was presented to the SBE during its October 2003 meeting. The plan will provide more opportunities for students to learn about American Indian history and culture through partnerships with tribes and other organizations that support American Indian students. The plan also seeks to improve the quality and quantity of data available regarding American Indian students and their educational experiences.

One Voice: Nurturing American Indian Families for School Success. In addition, the report highlighted such information in its 2004 annual report, “Our Voice, Your Voice,” which provides a comprehensive overview of the initiatives and programs that aim to improve the academic and social outcomes of American Indian students. The report emphasizes the importance of cultural knowledge and the role of families in promoting academic success for American Indian children. It also provides case studies and best practices from various school districts and tribes that have implemented successful strategies to support American Indian students.

Action Items
- Consider approval of the revised Consolidated State Application for 2004-05. The new formula would allocate funds using two components: a base allocation and a flexible component. The flexible component would be used to fund specific programs or initiatives that meet the unique needs of the state. Each state reserves an allocation of funds to support programs that are not included in the base formula.

Recommendations
- Recommendations for Teacher Education Programs at Barton College and Washington College were discussed. The SBE members voted to approve the new programs, which include a strong focus on preparing teachers for rural and isolated schools. The SBE also approved a request to revise the Healthful Living Standard for the 2005-06 school year.

Discussion Items
- Board members considered a request to revise the School Improvement Plan for the 2005-06 school year. The plan includes new flexibilities for schools to allocate resources in response to student needs. The SBE members were encouraged to explore ways to incorporate this new flexibility into North Carolina’s strategies for recruiting and retaining “Highly Qualified” teachers.

- The SBE also discussed the need for a revision to the current health curriculum for grades K-12. The Board members were interested in hearing more about the proposed revisions and encouraged Dr. Levine to provide more information at a future meeting.

- The Board also discussed the proposal to use federal funds to support student retention programs. The SBE members were encouraged to explore ways to use the funds to support programs that are effective in retaining students.

- Board members voted to approve a proposal by the Tribe, Bureau of Indian Education and state education leaders to incorporate American Indian cultural knowledge into the state’s curriculum. A detailed plan to achieve these goals was developed in the report, Our Voice, Your Voice, which was presented to the SBE during its October 2003 meeting. The plan will provide more opportunities for students to learn about American Indian history and culture through partnerships with tribes and other organizations that support American Indian students. The plan also seeks to improve the quality and quantity of data available regarding American Indian students and their educational experiences.