Board members also were shown a report prepared for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The report, titled "Campaign in North Carolina," provided valuable insights into the current state of education and recommendations for improvements.

The report highlighted the importance of preparing students for the 21st century by focusing on relevant skills and technologies. Superintendent Atkinson emphasized the need for schools to adopt innovative teaching methods and resources to engage students and ensure their success.

The Board members discussed the state's efforts to support students with a 21st century education. NCDPI Associate Superintendent/Chief Information Officer Peter Asmar shared his vision for integrating new technologies into the curriculum to enhance learning experiences.

Board members also were informed about the trip to Puebla, Mexico, organized by the Center for International Understanding. This trip aimed to provide students with international perspectives and cultural learning opportunities.

Board members were provided with the State Board Executive Director Rebecca Garland's report. This report included updates on initiatives such as the Board's senior student advisor program, which recognized the appointment of a new advisor. The Board's senior student advisor was presented with a crystal apple as a symbol of recognition.

The Board Members of the Year Program (QP) was discussed, along with the Education K-12 and for Family and Consumer Sciences Education 6-12. These programs were approved to reflect relevant changes.

The Board approved the adoption of instructional materials for Arts Education K-12 and for Family and Consumer Sciences Education 6-12, ensuring that educators have access to up-to-date resources.

The Board also discussed provisions for the signing of documents, including the development of policies and procedures. The finalized list of contracts was approved, providing a clear framework for implementation.

Board members received a report on the Flexible Use of Mentoring Funds (Q-P 6), which outlined the criteria and guidelines for mentoring programs.

The Board also reviewed the list of early college high schools expected to open in the 2006-07 school year, along with the 11 redesigned or conversion schools located on eight existing campuses. These initiatives aimed to provide students with advanced learning opportunities.

The Board discussed the new textbook materials and the concerns and barriers that exist in schools when implementing new materials. Three schools participated in the pilot: Banner Elementary (Wallace, NC); Bladen County United; and Hunters Creek Middle School (Onslow County Schools).

The Board approved staff recommendations regarding the final decisions in contested cases, specifically Monica Robertson v. NCDPI, Gail G. (HSP 7), and middle schools' AYP math results released Nov. 1.

The report on the Flexible Use of Mentoring Funds (QP 6) was also reviewed, highlighting the importance of mentoring programs in supporting student success.

The Board discussed the charter school program and the importance of monitoring the performance of charter schools. The report included an overview of the charter schools' financial performance and student outcomes.

The Board also approved a policy on student selection for enrollment in early college high schools. The policy is intended to ensure that students are selected based on their academic readiness and potential for success.

The Board discussed the state's approach to reducing teacher turnover rates, which have been a significant challenge in recent years. The Board highlighted the efforts being made to support teachers and improve working conditions, recognizing the critical role of teachers in student success.

The Board also reviewed the state's progress in developing new curriculum standards, particularly in mathematics. The interim EOG mathematics standards are being developed in consultation with mathematics teachers, and the Board was provided with updates on the progress of these efforts.

The Board discussed the development of new software programs to assist students in their personal and career development. The software is expected to help make the paperwork management less overwhelming for students.

The Board also reviewed the state's efforts to provide resources for students with disabilities, including school nutrition programs and special education services.

The Board discussed the importance of collaboration with parents and community members in decision-making processes, ensuring that their perspectives are included in the development of policies and programs.

The Board approved a budget that includes funding for various initiatives, including technology upgrades, curriculum development, and professional development opportunities for educators.

The Board members approved a policy on the use of federal funds to support local education initiatives. The policy is intended to ensure that funds are used effectively and in alignment with state and federal educational goals.

The Board discussed the importance of transparency and accountability in the decision-making process, ensuring that stakeholders are informed about the rationale behind policy decisions.

The Board approved a policy on the use of federal funds to support local education initiatives. The policy is intended to ensure that funds are used effectively and in alignment with state and federal educational goals.

The Board discussed the importance of transparency and accountability in the decision-making process, ensuring that stakeholders are informed about the rationale behind policy decisions.