Program

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“Our goal is for students, if they choose to be here to work towards this degree, that they will not have to leave Randolph County,” Berry said. “It’s a very affordable option that would be of no cost to the students.”

THE Ag Experience program was designed to help students develop a desire for post-secondary education as well as assist them to formulate career goals. Participating students will be able to earn both a high school diploma and an Associate of Science degree while in high school. The degree coursework can also be applied toward a baccalaureate degree, should the student choose to continue with their post-secondary education through UMO.

“We’re not going to stop completing the circles, but this completes a circle,” Superintendent Dr Stephen Gainey said. “I’m excited we’re here. I think this is a good thing and I think this has the opportunity to go beyond where it is right now down the road.”

Gainey also noted that the Providence Grove pilot program expands the footprint of UMO as its most western location.

The program is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who are enrolled in at least one high school course and have at least a 3.0 weighted grade point average on high school courses. Interested students with a 2.5-2.9 weighted grade point average will be considered with a formal recommendation from the principal.

According to Nancy Cross, director of career and technical education and innovative school design for RCSS, 13 students have already enrolled in THE Ag Experience for the 2017-18 academic year.

Uwharrie agreement

The board also unanimously approved a professional services agreement between RCSS and the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA to operate an after-school program for middle school students enrolled at the newly structured Uwharrie Ridge 6-12.

Highlights of the agreement include:
- No cost to RCSS.
- Operates on-site at Uwharrie Ridge 6-12.
- Closes geographic gap in after-school care options.
- A minimum of five students must enroll.
- Cost will be set based on area after-school market rates.
- Hours of operation will be 3:05-6 p.m.

In other business

The board was also provided quarterly updates on the current budget and student assignment