

COMMUNITY

Nicholas County School Board honors 2025 NCHS and MCTC graduates Haley Carson and Aleisha Guzman, and outgoing Finance Director Duane Kenney

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Members of the Nicholas County Board of Education, including Superintendent Doug Bechanan, met on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:00pm, at the board office, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Vice Chair, Cheryl Rawlings called the meeting to order with a moment of silence and roll call.

The board honored NCHS graduates Haley Carson and Aleisha Guzman, “whose dedication, resilience, and drive have set them apart.”

“While most high school students are focused on balancing homework, extracurriculars, and planning for graduation, Haley and Aleisha chose to go above and beyond. They took on the incredible challenge of earning their Associate’s Degrees from MCTC – all while still in high school. That’s no small feat. It requires discipline, long nights, early mornings, and an unwavering commitment to personal growth. What makes their achievement even more inspiring is their shared goal: to pursue careers in nursing. This is not just a career choice – it’s a calling. It speaks to their compassion, their strength, and their desire to make a real difference in the lives of others.

The board also honored Finance Director Duane Kenney who will be stepping down from his position at Nicholas County Schools. Mr. Kenney has served as Finance Director for Nicholas County Schools since the 2017-2018 school year. During his eight years of service, Duane has had a profound and lasting impact on the financial health and operations of our district. His financial insight, strategic planning, and dedication to fiscal responsibility have led to substantial cost-saving measures and overall improvements in the financial health of our district, that have benefited our schools, staff, and students. Thanks to his careful budgeting and long-term planning, Nicholas County Schools has been able to provide several salary increases for staff during his tenure, which is a true testament to his commitment to supporting the employees, and ensuring our district remains competitive and strong. He also played an instrumental role in the construction of the new NCES, the renovation projects at NCMHS, and the continuing upgrades to the athletic facilities. He also assists greeting students, assisting with morning drop-offs and afternoon dismissal, and is always willing to lend a helping hand, wherever needed. Mr. Kenney has helped move Nicholas County Schools forward in so many meaningful ways.”

The board approved the Consent Agenda and acknowledged receipt of the required report from the Superintendent regarding personnel actions, which include... Employment: Kayden Leggett, Jayden Watkins, Dylan Hunt – Summer Workers; Debbie Hale – NCHS Teacher; Reynolds Florence – NCES Custodian; Gray-



Supt. Bechanan and Vice Chair Cheryl Rawlings honors Haley Carson and Aleisha Guzman (not present) during the June school board meeting

son McCall – Summer Worker; Tracy Ishmael – NCES Instructional Assistant; Tony Smith – NCES Teacher; Holly Gibala – NCHS Teacher; Steven Duncan – NC Finance Director; Steven McCarty – Summer Worker; Barbara Allison – NCES Teacher; Tricia Pennell – NCES Instructional Assistant; and Jonathan Collins – NC-MHS Teacher, Assistant Football Coach.

Resignation: Duane Kenney – Finance Director; Samantha Frederick – NCES Custodian; Gene Peterson – NCHS Assistant Football Coach; Carly Crawford – NCES Preschool Instructional Assistant; Elizabeth M. Johnson – NCHS Science Teacher; Alyssa Price – NCES Teacher; Brittany Clouse – NCHS Teacher, Tennis Coach; Debbie Hale – NCHS Assistant Band Director; Leah Wagoner – NCES Instructional Assistant; and Jamie Guy – NCHS Teacher.

Donation Sick Days: Duane Kenney donates sick days to Lori Kenney.

The board acknowledged receipt of the following generous donations... 3 Star Industries - \$1,000 donation to Nicholas Co. FCCLA; Paul Mulhollem and Valerie Kravens - \$500 donation to Nicholas Co. FCCLA; Letton Insurance Agency - \$850 to Nicholas Co. FBIA; Landscapers Paradise, LLC - \$2,550 to Nicholas Co. FBIA; Anonymous x 3 - \$100 each to Backpack Program; Anonymous - \$200 to Backpack Program; Anonymous (in honor of Mona Vice) - \$100 to Backpack Program; Frances Davis - \$400 to FRYSC BP Program and GA; Hunter Kiskaden – Clothing and Backpack; Haley and James Linville – Popsicles for all NCES Students; Holbrook’s Embroidery Plus – Field Day t-shirts for

all of Nicholas County Schools; Sonshine Sisters – hygiene products; and Blue Lick #495 and Dougherty #65 Lodges – Carlisle - Nine \$75 Gift Cards (Attendance Awards).

The board approved the following Pay Applications, Direct Purchase Orders, and/or Invoices for the Nicholas Co. High School Athletic Renovation Project, at the discretion of the Superintendent... Oheil Site Solution - \$142,416.00; Hinkle Contracting Co., LLC - \$58,487.66; Momentum Construction, LLC - \$68,661.00; Ferguson Waterworks - \$7,875.27; and Walker Construction & Materials - \$1,134.30.

The board voted to approve and accept the Nicholas Co. Schools District Facilities Plan Public Hearing minutes; the Insurance Policy proposals for the 2025-2026 School Year, as presented; the Pledge of Collateral as agreed to by Bank Depository, Traditional Bank, Inc., for the 2025-2026 School year, in regards to investments; the payment of bills for the period of June 17-30, 2025 to close out Fiscal Year 2024-2025; the 1st reading of the Kentucky School Board Association’s School Board Policy Update #48 for the 2025-2026 School Year; the 2025-2026 Federal Cash Request Assurance, in regards to grants; the Memorandum of Understanding with New Horizons Academy, Kentucky Education Development Cooperative for the 2025-2026 School Year, in regards to home school students; and the proposal by FinalSite, to establish



Supt. Bechanan and the School Board honors outgoing Finance Director Duane Kenney during the June school board meeting.

Staff to Student Monitored Communication Platform, in regards to student and staff safety regarding electronic communication, which will be in place by the beginning of the school year.

The board voted to approve the following Facility Use Requests... Nicholas Co. Little Jacket Cheer to use the NCES gymnasium, on Mondays in June, 5pm to 8pm; Nicholas Co. 4H to use the NCES gymnasium for Camp Departure, July 7, 2025, from 9am to 10am; the Nicholas Co. Youth Football to host Youth Football Camp at the NCHS football field, at the discretion of the Superintendent; and the Nicholas Co. Youth Football to host the Nicholas Co. Youth Football Grid-o-rama at the NCHS football field, at the discretion of the Superintendent.

The board voted to approve the Travel Request by NCHS Baseball to attend at Cincinnati Reds ball game in June 2025 with date to be determined, in Cincinnati, Oh.

The board voted to approve and accept the proposals from Oheil for the installation of a new 5’ wide sidewalk extension from the home bleachers to the north, for a total of 300 sq. ft., at a cost of \$10,520.00; and the installation of a new 5’ wide sidewalk from the northwest corner of the field, across the north side of the field outside of the fence, and around to the visitor bleachers, for a total of 1,800 sq. ft., at a cost of \$25,725.00, and the installation of a new service box (turf box) for water shut-off valve, at a cost of \$1,430.00, and to pay for these projects with available contingency funds.

The board voted to approve a Financial Services Contract to a named Financial Services Con-

sultant, for up to 60 days; and approved to surplus NCES grade school levels K-5 outdated, educational reading materials, with a general list to be provided.

NCES Principal Nikki Orazen reports to the board that their Kindergarten event for upcoming Kindergarten students was a success; that the teachers are excited about the new reading program; that she has been very busy with interviews for new hires and that all positions have been filled, but three; and that she would have I-Ready data available at the next school board meeting.

NCMHS Principal Stacey Allison reports to the board that she had recently spoken with incoming Seniors, wanting their input, regarding upcoming dress code and cell phone policy changes; gave some updates regarding the Summer School program; attended the recent State FFA Conference; and also spoke about filling empty

teaching positions and hiring.

Rob Hughes gave some updates regarding the sports facility’s construction projects, and said the new football field looks great, and that construction on some smaller projects is still moving along, weather permitting. He did say that once the projects are completely finished that it will be great finished product for both the kids and the community. He also spoke about a plumbing issue, regarding a collapsed line, and that it is currently being fixed and is 60% complete.

Before adjournment, Supt. Bechanan spoke highly of the Nicholas Co. Staff and Board Members for everything they do for Nicholas County Schools; and also spoke highly of outgoing Finance Director Duane Kenney, who will be missed, and welcomed incoming Finance Director Tyler Duncan.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

NOTICE

The Robertson County Fiscal Court is accepting bids for a paving project at The Robertson County Judicial Center, located at 127 E Walnut St., Mt Olivet, KY. Bids will be accepted through July 2, 2025. Details and specifications can be obtained at the Robertson Co Judge Executive's Office at 26 Court St, Mt Olivet, KY. M T Th F- 8:30am-4pm. W-8:30am-12pm Ph- 606-724-5615.

Published in Carlisle Mercury on 06.18.25



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INVITATION TO BID

The Nicholas County Extension District is soliciting sealed bids for Cleaning Services of the Cooperative Extension Service Livestock Barn facilities for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The winning bid will be responsible for providing cleaning materials needed for the position to complete the tasks below. Bids presented should reflect the hourly rate the bidder would charge for the following services:

- After each rental (1 hour):
- Check that tables and chairs are straightened
 - Tables and countertops wiped down with disinfectant
 - Sweep and mop kitchen, classroom, and bathrooms (using mop and cleaner, disposing of dirty water as needed.)
 - Ensure toilet paper, paper towels, and soap are stocked in both the kitchen and bathrooms
 - Ensure toilets are cleaned and ready for the next renter/event
 - Ensure all trash has been removed by renter

- Once a month (2 hours allowed)
- Check and sweep down any cobwebs present around walls, behind doors, baseboards, ceilings, windowsills, and storage area
 - Clean blinds
 - Clean all chairs
 - Clean outside of ice machine and refrigerator
 - Clean refrigerator inside and dispose of expired/unclaimed perishables
 - Clean doors
 - Change AC filter

Bids will be opened at the next District Board meeting at the Nicholas County Extension Office. The Nicholas County Extension District Board will award the contract based on the lowest and/or best bid received and the District Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids Should IT DEEM TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF the Nicholas County Cooperative Extension District Board. Bids received after the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids will be returned unopened to the bidder. The closing date to receive bids will be June 25th at 4:30 p.m.

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification. Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING.

Published in the Carlisle Mercury on 06.11 & 06.18 of 2025

NOTICE

The Robertson County Fiscal Court is accepting bids for a paving project at KY 1504 (Central Ridge Road), Mt Olivet, KY. Bids will be accepted through July 2, 2025. Details and specifications can be obtained at the Robertson Co Judge Executive's Office at 26 Court St, Mt Olivet, KY. M T Th F- 8:30am-4pm. W-8:30am-12pm Ph- 606-724-5615.

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STREET MINISTRY

Come enjoy a new street ministry the third Saturday of each month in Carlisle at VanLandingham Park beginning at 2 pm. There will be gospel music, scripture reading from KJV Bible, testimonies, fellowship, free handouts including Bibles and pamphlets, free snack food, lots of smiles and an uplifting time of worship.

Sponsored by Hope & Redemption Ministry and God’s House of Prayer

EVERYONE WELCOME

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