COMMUNITY

Nicholas County School Board recognizes Upward Bound participants and board member Brenda Mattox

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Members of the Nicholas County Board of Education, including Superintendent Doug Bechanan, met on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025, at 6:00pm, at the Nicholas County Board of Education office, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Board Chair Cheryl Rawlings called the meeting to order with roll call, with all board members present, sans board member Brenda Mattox, who attended the evenings meeting by phone.

The board proudly recognized that "Nicholas County currently has 5 students participating in the Upward Bound program, and each of them had shared powerful feedback about how the program is shaping their future."

"Josue Clay, a senior who has participated since his freshman year, values the program for helping students become college-ready, while still having fun. He also highlighted the opportunity to meet new people from different counties and form lasting friendships."

"Timothy Taulbee, a junior in his second year with Upward Bound, shared that his favorite part of the program is the strong camaraderie among students and staff. He appreciates how easy they are to talk to and how enjoyable the environment is."

"Danica Amburgey explained that Upward Bound has made a meaningful impact on her life. She has built many friendships and gained valuable knowledge about college and future opportunities."

Board Chair Cheryl Rawlings, Upward Bound participant Josue Clay, and Supt. Doug Bechanan

"Keelan Fryman enjoys the program because it allows her to meet new people and experience amazing opportunities that help her grow personally and academically."

"Ethan Scott, a senior, appreciates Upward Bound for the post-secondary opportunities it provides and the guidance it offers as he prepares for life after high school."

"Nicholas County Schools are extremely proud of these students and grateful for their commitment to the program and representing Nicholas County and the positive impact of Upward Bound."

The board also recognized and congratulated board member, Brenda Mattox "who was recently named the Eastern Kentucky North Region Director for the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) Board of Directors. Brenda will represent not only the Nicholas County Board, but 17 other districts from the region. Congratulations to her on this appointment as she continually seeks ways to service public education at all levels."

The board then approved the Consent Agenda, which included the meeting minutes, treasurer's report and payment of bill, and the superintendent's report of personnel actions, which include...

Employment: Eli Hughes – Migrant Tutor/Recruiter; Destiny Glass – Substitute Teacher; Lauren Brown – Substitute Teacher; Amanda Chadwick – Substitute Teacher; and Elizabeth McCord, Holly Gibala, Stephanie Smith, Laurel McDaniel, and Shelby Neace – HS After School Tutors.

Termination: Bianca Black – Bus Monitor.

Resignation: Samantha Frederick – NCES Custodian.

The board acknowledged receipt of the following generous donations... Farm Credit Mid-America - $500 to Nicholas Co. FFA; David Rankin American Legion Post #257 (Sons of the American Legion) - $500 to NCHS Boys Basketball; S P Development Corp. - $300 to NCES FRYSC; Fran Davis - $400 to NCES FRYSC (Backpack Program); Mariann Quinn - $500 to NCMHS FRYSC; Lisa A. Reynolds - $75 to NCES Music (in Honor of Sharon Wilson); Anonymous Donation for Angel Tree - $75 (in Honor of Sharon Wilson's 75th Birthday); Arie and Kimberly Van Der Heiden - $200 to Nicholas Co. FRYSC (Elem. School – Backpack Program); Jacob and Lara Warren - $200 to Nicholas Co. FRYSC (Elem. School – Backpack Program); Betty Jo Reichart - $200 to Nicholas Co. FRYSC (Elem. School – Backpack Program); Tip and Melissa Fryman - $100 to Nicholas Co. FRYSC (Elem. School – Backpack Program); Kim and Jacob Bates – 500 x Candy Canes for Students; Melissa Fryman - $100 to the Backpack Program; Maya Pratt / S P Development Corp. - $300 to the Backpack Program; Charity and Dreama Griffith – 38 x Backpacks; James and Amanda Linville – Winter Hats and Gloves for Students; Lois Gates – 40 x hand-made Winter Hats; Dennis and Jo Ellen Jackson – Grocery/Pantry Items for Students and Families; Nicholas County Public Library – Personal Hygiene Bags for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades and Suckers for Red Ribbon Week; Anonymous Donations - $300 (Backpack Program), Clothing, Grocery/Pantry Items for Students and Families by donor to remain anonymous; Ashley Allison – Gas/Water Bill Donation; Marsha Humphries - Gas/Water Bill Donation; Paige Curtsinger - Gas/Water Bill Donation; Terri Ross – 4 x $15 McDonald's Gift Cards; God's Pantry - $377.53 to NCMHS FRYSC; Aimee Johnson – Coats and Sweatshirts; Ashley Allison – Clothing for Center; Anonymous - $100 (Backpack Program); Chad and Courtney Ockerman – Food for FRYSC Families; NCPL – Chairs and Items for Center; and Suzanne Smith – Food for FRYSC Families.

The board approved Pay Applications, Direct Purchase Orders, and/or Invoices for the Nicholas Co. High School Athletic Renovation Project, at the discretion of the superintendent, to Momentum Construction, LLC for $48,701.72, and to Lee Building Products for $5,648.50. The athletic project is around 95% completed, with only a section sidewalk, concrete work, and fencing to be completed. The press box for the baseball field is finished, and seed/and straw has been placed, as well.

The board approved BG4 for the Nicholas County High School Turf project, and to submit a BG4 to KDE, as part of the project closeout. This will begin the closeout procedure for the installed turf at the football field.

The board approved to amend the 2025-2026 Classified Salary Schedule to include ELEVATE GEAR UP Success Coach position for the district with a 190-day contract / 8-hour day, with the stated salary schedule. It is a classified position, and the pay is based on similar positions within the Nicholas County School system. The project would begin with 6th and 7th grades, and would continue moving forward through till graduation, which would focus on academics, mentoring, social and emotional dynamics, setting goals, etc., through a 7-year grant. Supt. Bechanan said that Nicholas County Schools is "very fortunate to have a program like this in Nicholas County."

The board approved to adopt the KISTA Participation Resolution, approving to participate in KISTA to purchase a school bus in 2025-2026, at an approximate cost of between $172,000.00 to $174,000.00, and that going through this route

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Fiscal Court
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$3,000.00 anonymous donation for the Mathers Fund. Judge-Exec. Hamilton said this anonymous donor had previously benefited from the fund and simply wanted to give back to a fund that so generously helps the community.

The court approved the Jailer's 2025 incentive payment of $3,976.59 for completed training; approved the 2nd reading of a budget amendment, with no changes from the 1st reading; approved the treasurer's transfers and treasurer's report; approved the sale of two of the 22 not-in-use hospital beds, stored at the road department, to Timothy Highfield, and approved to advertise the remaining 20 beds as donations to county residents that are in need, with one bed per, unless other needs is shown; and approved the Liberty Tree Project, through the Kentucky Historical Society in conjunction of the upcoming 250 anniversary of the United States, which will plant a tree in Nicholas County, as one of 120 trees that will be planted in each Kentucky county.

Before going into closed session, the court approved the Sheriff's report. The court then went into closed session, and resumed some time later, with no action taken while in closed session.

Following closed session, the court approved the termination of a former Nicholas County Courthouse Custodian and approved the resignations of Nicholas County EMS members Justin McVey and Kristy Nelson; approved a master/referral agreement through Bluegrass ADD utilizing co-op students for courthouse work; and approved the workforce development referral process, as well.

Before adjournment, the court discussed repairing potholes, spoke about the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and spoke about Willowbrook Healthcare and the rising number of residents at the facility.

Before adjournment, Road Department Supervisor Pat Dunn said that there was 70 to 80 tons of salt on hand for the upcoming winter season, and that 300 more tons had been ordered.

The court also reminded everyone about the food bank located in the courthouse, for anyone in need, will be going on for a while, thanks to generous donations from county residents and local churches.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

PUBLIC NOTICE

An ordinance amending the Nicholas County budget for fiscal year 2025-26 to include unanticipated receipts from all funds in the amount of $ 1,241,539 and increasing expenditures in all funds for this amount was adopted by the Nicholas County Fiscal Court on Nov. 14, 2025.

A copy of the adopted ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the county judge/executive during normal business hours.

Published in the Carlisle Mercury on 11.19.25

NOTICE

Due to an increase from its supplier Bath County Water District, Sharpsburg Water District has filed for approval from the Public Service Commission to adjust its rates for service rendered on and after December 15, 2025.

		Prior Rates	New Rates	$ Increase	% Change
5/8 X 3/4 Inch Meter					
First	2,000 gallons (Minimum Bill)	$35.37	$36.15	$0.78	2.2%
Next	3,000 gallons (per 1,000 gals)	0.01003	0.01042	0.00039	3.9%
Next	5,000 gallons (per 1,000 gals)	0.00926	0.00965	0.00039	4.2%
Over	10,000 gallons (per 1,000 gals)	0.00897	0.00936	0.00039	4.3%
1 Inch Meter					
First	5,000 gallons (Minimum Bill)	$65.57	$67.52	$1.95	3.0%
Next	5,000 gallons (per 1,000 gals)	0.00926	0.00965	0.00039	4.2%
Over	10,000 gallons (per 1,000 gals)	0.00897	0.00936	0.00039	4.3%
2 Inch Meter					
First	16,000 gallons (Minimum Bill)	$165.85	$172.09	$6.24	3.8%
Over	16,000 gallons (per 1,000 gals)	0.00897	0.00936	0.00039	4.3%
Bulk Loading Station		$0.01250	$0.01300	$0.50	4%

The monthly bill for an average customer using 5,000 gallons of water each month will increase $1.95 (or 3.0%) from $65.46 to $67.41. A person may examine this application at the district's office located at 16 East Mill Street in Sharpsburg. A person may also examine this application at the PSC located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or on the PSC website at http://psc.ky.gov.

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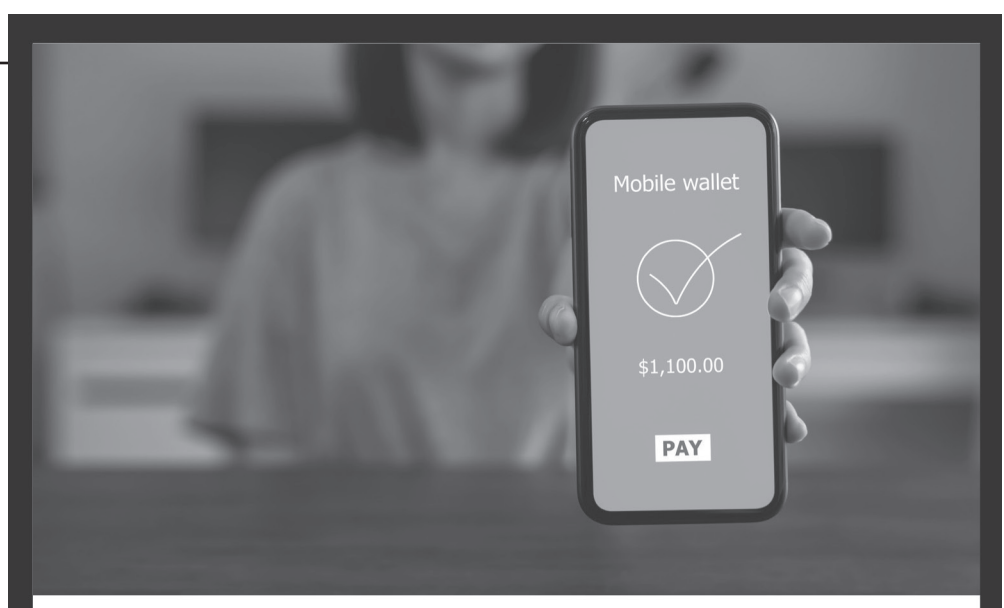

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