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Nicholas County Schools Supt. Doug Bechanan announces retirement



Nicholas County Schools Superintendent Doug Bechanan and his wife, Connie

By Michael A. Clary
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During the Nicholas County School Board meeting, held on Monday evening, Feb. 16, 2026, Superintendent Doug Bechanan shared his notice of retirement, effective June 30, 2026.

The notice of retirement reads as follows:

"Nicholas County Board of Education,

In May of 1991, as a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky, I visited Nicholas County to inquire about an opening for an Agricultural Education teacher. What

began as a professional inquiry developed into a thirty-five-year career of service at Nicholas County Schools. During that time, I have had the privilege of serving as an Agricultural Education teacher, Principal of Nicholas County High School, District Administrator, and for the past eight years, Superintendent.

Beyond my professional responsibilities, it has been an honor of my life to bring my wife into this community, raise two wonderful children and to call Nicholas County home. The friendships built and the shared commitment to our students have made this journey especially meaningful.

After much reflection, and with deep appreciation, I am formally announcing my retirement as Superintendent of Nicholas County Schools, effective June 30, 2026. This will allow a smooth and thoughtful transition for our next leader.

I am sincerely grateful to the Nicholas County Board of Education for their continued confidence in my leadership and for

Bechanan Retires
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Nicholas County Fiscal Court talks Mather's Fund, Wendt's Wildlife, West End Park, and much more

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Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, including Judge-Executive Steve Hamilton and County Attorney Dawn Letcher, met on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, at 9:00am, at the Nicholas County Courthouse, for their regularly scheduled meeting, which was broadcast live on the Carlisle Mercury Facebook page.

Judge-Exec. Hamilton called the meeting to order with a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call with a magistrates present, approval of the minutes from the previous month's meeting, and acknowledgment that the monthly departmental reports had been received.

The court approved the KPDI (Kentucky Pride



Judge-Executive Steve Hamilton presented gift certificates, from the NCPL, to Road Dept. Supervisor Pat Dunn and his crew

Development Initiative) Round 2 resolution, as presented by Jakob Marsh from BlueGrass ADD (Area Development

District), regarding the joint industrial park funding match.

The court approved the monthly bills, and

approved Mather's Fund payments of \$250 each to 19 NCHS baseball players for a tournament in Destin, Fl.; \$250 each to 24 NCHS softball players for a tournament in Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, Tn.; and \$25 each to 78 NCES 4th graders to attend Environmental Camp at North Central 4-H Camp in Carlisle. Magistrate Ross Haney voted no on all these requests, and posted his reasoning on his Facebook page, which reads as follows...

"I voted no for all of these requests, but for different reasons. The Mathers Fund is purely an educational fund. When this fund was set up from a generous donation from Dr. Mathers, it was originally intended

Fiscal Court
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Nicholas County Board of Education approves design of new Central Board Office

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Members of the Nicholas County Board of Education, including Superintendent Doug Bechanan, met on Monday evening, Feb. 16, 2026, at the Central Office, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Chairperson Cheryl Rawlings called the meeting to order with a prayer and roll call, with all board members present.

The Nicholas County FFA presented a slideshow to the board that showcased some of the events they have attended since the beginning of the school year and FFA member Conner Rhodes recited the FFA Creed.

Lori Dearfield, from Kelley Galloway Smith Goolsby, PSC presented a very detailed, page by page review of the audit to the board.

Craig Oossey, from G. Smith & Associates, then presented a slideshow



Concept design of the Nicholas County Schools Central Office

to the board of design plans for the new Central Board Office, that will be located on the left side of the entrance to Nicholas County Schools campus, below the bus

garage current location. Mr. Oossey said upon approval, the bid could go out in the summer of this year, and could possibly be a 12-month process, weather permit-

ting, of course. The board approved

School Board
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