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Virginia School Boards Association®

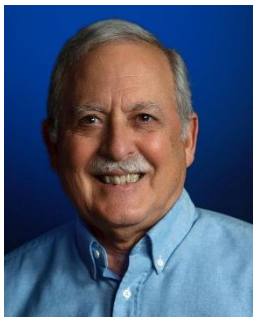
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News Release

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Regional School Board Members of the Year Honored at 2026 VSBA Annual Convention



Dr. Andy Kohen
Valley Region
Harrisonburg City Public Schools



Ralph Fallin
Eastern Region
Westmoreland County Public Schools



Valeria Edwards
Blue Ridge Region
Henry County Public Schools

Charlottesville, VA – The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) recognized three outstanding school board members with its 2026 Regional School Board Member of the Year Awards on Wednesday, November 18, during the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Andy Kohen of Harrisonburg City, Ralph Fallin of Westmoreland County, and Valeria Edwards of Henry County were honored for their dedication to effective school board leadership, advocacy, and service to public education. The recipients were recognized during both the Awards Luncheon and Opening General Session.

Dr. Andy Kohen, Harrisonburg City School Board, has served since 2015, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students. As noted in his nomination, “His advocacy is always grounded in a desire to provide the very best opportunities for all of our students.”

Ralph Fallin, Westmoreland County School Board, has dedicated more than a decade to school board service, including nine years as Board Chair. His nomination highlights his enthusiasm for public education, noting that he “exudes joy and excitement for public education and truly loves serving in this capacity.”

Valeria Edwards, Henry County School Board, has made a meaningful impact in nearly two years of board service, building on more than five decades of experience in education. Her nomination describes her as exemplifying “the dedication, leadership, and servant heart that defines an outstanding school board member,” recognizing her lifelong commitment to students and public education.

Through the Regional School Board Member of the Year Awards, VSBA celebrates individuals whose leadership, dedication, and service make a lasting difference in their school divisions and communities. VSBA congratulates this year’s recipients on their well-deserved recognition.

About the Virginia School Boards Association
The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training, and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s educational leaders.

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