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| VBCPS - Ahead of the Curve |

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| [Student](http://www.vbschools.com/press_releases/prfy16/021.html) journalists to hold monthlyinterviews with VBCPS superintendent*Cox High School reporters question cost of office renovations* |
| Virginia Beach City Public [Schools](http://www.vbschools.com/press_releases/prfy16/021.html) (VBCPS) Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence will meet with student journalists from each of the division’s high school newspapers during the 2016-17 school year. “I have long valued the importance of student voice, and what better way to hear our students’ point of [view](http://www.vbschools.com/press_releases/prfy16/021.html) than to give them the [access](http://www.vbschools.com/press_releases/prfy16/021.html) and ability to ask the tough questions?” Spence said. “I am looking forward to working with our next generation of journalists each month.” For the first student interview, Spence sat down with Cox High School *Falcon Press* reporters Catalina Perez and Seimi Park to talk about recent renovations to his office. Spence gave the students a tour of the space and fielded questions about how the approximate $51,000\* in costs were spent.“They didn’t pull any punches,” Spence said. “I was pleased to see that these young journalists had done their research and didn’t shy away from asking me some probing questions, like why the [money](http://d.7769domain.com/r/rd.html#http%3A%2F%2F7769domain.com%2FAd%2FGoIEx%2FYWJ5MWo1MnlkMkVCamJUVzA3ZVV4Tm1nZ3hWOGpxZTlDaTFDNkh0dmxaU1dJY2d2MFBVNUNzT0w3S2Z2K2lTcjI5c25zN2xJTG9UYVQ1anFSWElka3ZNTXhVd0VoTU9TRFlsdm9nZHQ2RnBDYnVSOXFGK0JJQU9lRDRzSmpKVTlCYXdlNVFLdWR6OStxMEpURmRqTm4zSWVSNWJZaVI3TVNmdk95ZGRnbDRvPQ2) wasn’t allocated somewhere else.”Spence also shared that new technology has yet to be added to the office, but will be coming shortly (the estimated cost is roughly $8,000). In addition, there is a larger technology improvement plan for [a conference](http://d.7769domain.com/r/rd.html#http%3A%2F%2F7769domain.com%2FAd%2FGoIEx%2FL1Jkbm4yaFlqeFdQbFZCbkFzV1kybjVtU25HYWhhSGc4cUhLVDk4OVdCY1prS2l0ZFc3YTNoSk00V3ZGUGo1ZXdjZmcvY2pQdlU3VmZjOWdreVdTdWFISTVBSnBrWW9vb1NqbE5WSGxFY3pPNE1EK3JrUFNldUdmT2Vpdkw2Umd5YnhaMVJXYjF1UTBFZGlsVVQ0RmdScGdZbmFwTmlKMUpjck5FSFc1MWx6RXVrSWFoeUtLZHJTR2VtK3k3L2k10) space and work area used by the school board and various departments in the school administration building. The cost of those improvements is expected to be approximately $20,000. To see the [complete](http://www.vbschools.com/press_releases/prfy16/021.html) interview regarding the office renovations, visit the VBSchools Facebook page [here](https://www.facebook.com/VBSchools/) or visit the Falcon Press [homepage](http://falconpressnews.org/9569/showcase/dr-aaron-spence-on-office-renovations/). Next month, Spence will meet with student journalists from Ocean Lakes High School.*\*Previous media reports indicated the superintendent’s office renovation cost $72,000; however, this figure included labor costs, which are documented for record-keeping purposes, but not paid out of pocket since* [*work*](http://d.7769domain.com/r/rd.html#http%3A%2F%2F7769domain.com%2FAd%2FGoIEx%2FMWZ2MEV0MC9mZE5ja2x5blVTaUxjb1piZHBpVk9MVm5qNmxXVXB6OTR5WFV3Y0Z3WVBFdXdZUU9zb1ZFRW5ERHo5VXBoSmJ6aVRGbEZzdTdFSitRTUdQSnBXS1IwNzJ5YXo2akZhUmpZNU1QTytFbVlXYm9Cc1NUQ1ZRY0pDeEtwZUtUUklPT3AzUVF3Z1gza2MxY0dnMzJ6U3FmekJrZjhLMXkyUzhLZ2FjPQ2) *is completed by VBCPS staff. The true cost of supplies and materials for the office was $50,975.86.* |