BROOKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
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J. ALVIN WILBANKS
CEO/SUPERINTENDENT

William Bo Ford, Jr.
Principal

November 3, 2018

Dear Brookwood Students, Parents/Guardians, and Community,

I am writing this letter to share my concern and to apologize for an incident that occurred during our band's halftime show on Friday night. For those of you who have attended our games, you may have noticed that the sousaphones wear covers in the stands to show school spirit. The covers spell out BRONCOS and some of them feature our Bronco mascot. Our band does not wear these covers on the field because they shield the sound and because during the halftime show our band members move around the field and do not stand in the same order as they do in the stands. That said, last night during what was already a very busy senior night, we experienced several personnel challenges that resulted in our band director not being on the field when the band took the field. With that in mind, when the sousaphone players took the field, they did not follow band rules and normal practice, and instead, they left the covers on their instruments. Unfortunately, as they performed and moved around the field, the letters on the instruments aligned to spell a completely unacceptable, racial term. Not only was the appearance of this term during our halftime show hurtful and disrespectful to audience members, it also was disappointing, as it does not reflect the standards and beliefs of our school and community.

We are a very inclusive community and we care about all of our students. We are concerned that this situation occurred and are committed to taking steps to ensure this does not happen again. In addition to reviewing our halftime procedures, we will also be taking disciplinary action with the students involved.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and support and I encourage you to reach out to me if you have additional concerns.

Sincerely,

William Bo Ford, Jr.
Principal

GOOD SCHOOLS MAKE BETTER COMMUNITIES