

On behalf of the Horry County Board of Education, please join us in a moment of silence to express our deepest sympathies for the family of the deceased student and our thoughts and prayers for the recovery of the injured school resource officer at Carolina Forest High School following an incident that occurred last Friday, October 16.

We would like to publicly acknowledge our appreciation to the faculty and staff of Carolina Forest High School for the manner in which they dealt with an incident that was unprecedented and unpredictable. We thank the law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel for their swift and supportive response to attend the injured and help maintain calm and order on a very difficult day. We thank the parents and students for their patience and pervasive show of compassion and concern for those most intimately involved and for the safety of the school.

We are limited at this time in terms of our ability to comment with greater detail about the specifics of this incident due to an active investigation being conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. We, like most of you, search for answers to questions that could help us understand what happened that day. In time, we will know more about *what* happened, but we may never fully understand *why* it happened.

We pledge our support in the continued investigation of this incident by law enforcement; we pledge to review and access all the events that led to the tragedy that occurred; and we also pledge to our communities that we will continue to hold school safety as our highest priority.