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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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**Form 10-K**

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(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED January 30, 2022

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File No. 001-35664

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**Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Delaware  
(State of Incorporation)

35-2382255  
(I.R.S. Employer ID)

1221 Beltline Rd., Coppell, Texas, 75019  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(214) 357-9588  
(Registrant's telephone number)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class           | Trading<br>Symbol(s) | Name of each exchange<br>on which registered |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Common Stock \$0.01 par value | PLAY                 | NASDAQ Global Select Market                  |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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Indicate by checkmark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by checkmark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes  No

Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

|                         |                                     |                           |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Accelerated filer         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-accelerated filer   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Smaller reporting company | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Emerging Growth Company | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                           |                          |

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report. Yes  No

Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of common stock held by non-affiliates, based on the closing price of the last day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was approximately \$1.6 billion.

The number of shares of Registrant's Common Stock outstanding as of March 18, 2022 was 48,565,997.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement for the registrant's 2022 Annual Meeting of Shareholders have been incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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**DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K**  
**FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JANUARY 30, 2022**  
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## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Matters discussed in this report and in other public disclosures, both written and oral, include “forward-looking” statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as codified in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They often include words such as “believes,” “estimates,” “anticipates,” “expects,” “intends,” “plans,” “seeks,” or words of similar meaning, or future or conditional verbs, such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “aims,” “intends,” or “projects,” and similar expressions, whether in the negative or the affirmative. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of the report. These forward-looking statements are all based on currently available operating, financial and competitive information and are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Our actual future results and trends may differ materially depending on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the risk and uncertainties discussed under “Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.” Given these risks and uncertainties, you should not rely on forward-looking statements as a prediction of actual results. Any or all forward-looking statements contained in this report and other public statements made by us, including by our management, may turn out to be incorrect. We are including this cautionary note to make applicable and take advantage of the safe harbor provision the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 for forward-looking statements. We expressly disclaim any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

## PART I

### ITEM 1. Business

Dave & Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. (“D&B Entertainment”) is a leading owner and operator of high-volume entertainment and dining venues (“stores”) that operate under the name “Dave & Buster’s.” We offer our customers the opportunity to “Eat Drink Play and Watch” all in one location. We provide our customers the most social, shareable fun, with high-quality food and beverages as well as interactive entertainment options for adults and families to enjoy together. We opened the first Dave & Buster’s store in Dallas, Texas in 1982, and as of January 30, 2022 (the last day of fiscal 2021), we owned and operated 144 stores located in 40 states, Puerto Rico and one Canadian province. Unless otherwise provided in this report, references to “Dave & Buster’s,” “we,” “us,” “our” or the “Company” refer to D&B Entertainment and its wholly owned subsidiaries and any predecessor entities.

Our fiscal year consists of 52 or 53 weeks ending on the Sunday after the Saturday closest to January 31. Each quarterly period has 13 weeks, except in a 53-week year when the fourth quarter has 14 weeks. Fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 each contained 52 weeks. We refer to our fiscal years as 2021, 2020, and 2019 throughout this report.

### COVID-19 Pandemic

In March 2020, a novel strain of coronavirus (“COVID-19”) outbreak was declared a global pandemic and a National Public Health Emergency. Shortly after the national emergency declaration, state and local officials began placing restrictions on businesses, some of which allowed To-Go or curbside service only while others limited capacity in the dining room or arcade (“Midway”). By March 20, 2020, all our 137 operating stores were temporarily closed. On April 30, 2020, our first store re-opened to the public, and by the end of fiscal 2020, 107 of our 140 stores were open and operating in limited capacity. These stores were operating with a combination of limited menus, reduced dining room seating, reduced game availability in the Midway reduced operating hours and other restrictions referred to as “limited operations” or “operating in limited capacity.” The Company re-opened the remaining 33 stores that had been temporarily closed by August 1, 2021, the end of the second

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quarter of fiscal 2021. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, our two Canadian stores temporarily closed due to the resurgence, and shortly after the end of our fiscal year, these two stores re-opened with limited operations. These developments have had a material adverse impact on the Company's revenues, results of operations and cash flows for fiscal 2020, and during fiscal 2021, continued to have a significant impact on our business and results of operations. The ongoing effects of COVID-19 and its variants, including, but not limited to, consumer behavior, capacity restrictions, mask and vaccination mandates, wage inflation, our ability to continue to staff our stores and disruptions in the supply chain, will impact our operating results and financial position. The impact to our operations has been most notable during the periods of greatest accelerating COVID-19 case counts. We have incurred and will continue to incur additional costs to address government regulations and the safety of our team members and customers. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business are discussed in further detail throughout this Business section, "Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" of this report.

### **Eat Drink Play and Watch - All Under One Roof**

We have developed a distinctive brand based on our customer value proposition: "Eat Drink Play and Watch." The interaction between dining, enjoying our full-service bar, playing games, and watching sports and other entertainment is the defining feature of the Dave & Buster's customer experience. We believe this combination creates an experience at a single location that cannot be easily replicated elsewhere. Our stores are also designed to accommodate premium sports viewing events, private parties, business functions and other corporate-sponsored events. We believe we appeal to a diverse customer base by creating a highly customizable experience in a dynamic and fun setting.

#### **Eat**

We strive to differentiate our food with quality, flavorful offerings guided by an "Inspired American Kitchen" identity. This identity is rooted in enhanced flavors and quality ingredients across a condensed number of menu items that enables our customers to explore new flavors while offering a balanced selection of familiar dishes. Our menu also simplifies execution, and along with recent kitchen enhancements allows us to deliver dishes to customers hotter and faster to drive an improved customer experience. While our menu appeals to a broad spectrum of customers, we continue to evolve it to reflect the changing tastes of our customers, with options for full meals as well as grabbing an appetizer to share with friends. We deliver high-quality offerings, including a wide variety of starters, one-of-a-kind burgers and handhelds, choice-grade steaks, pasta, and low calorie, vegetarian, and gluten friendly options. We believe our broad menu offers something for everyone and is appropriate for many different occasions. To ensure that we stay on-trend, we update our menus regularly with new food items or limited time offers. Our food revenues, which include non-alcoholic beverages, accounted for approximately 68% of our food and beverage revenues and approximately 22.7% of our total revenues during fiscal 2021.

#### **Drink**

Each of our locations also offers full bar service, including a variety of beers, hand-crafted cocktails, and premium spirits. We are focused on maintaining a streamlined beverage menu for ease of execution, while using quality ingredients including fresh juices, purees and house-made mixers. Beverage service is typically available throughout the entire store, allowing for multiple point of sale opportunities. We believe that our high margin beverage offering is complementary to each of the Eat, Play and Watch aspects of our brand. Our alcoholic beverage revenues accounted for approximately 32% of our total food and beverage revenues and approximately 10.8% of our total revenues during fiscal 2021.

#### **Play**

The games in our Midway are a key aspect of the Dave & Buster's entertainment experience, which we believe is the core differentiating feature of our brand. The Midway in each of our stores is an area where we

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offer a wide array of amusement and entertainment options, some of which are exclusive to Dave & Buster's on a permanent or temporary basis. Each of our stores typically has approximately 145 redemption and simulation games as well as our proprietary virtual reality platform. Most of our games are activated by game play credits on cards or other RFID devices (collectively, "Power Cards"). A customer purchases a Power Card with game play credits or "chips" at an automated kiosk, through our mobile application, or from one of our team members. Our amusement and other revenues accounted for approximately 66.5% of our total revenues during fiscal 2021. Redemption games, which represented approximately 72% of our amusement and other revenues in fiscal 2021, offer our customers the opportunity to win tickets that are redeemable at a retail-style space in our stores that we have branded WIN! with prizes ranging from branded novelty items to high-end electronics. We believe this "opportunity to win" creates a fun and highly energized social experience that is an important aspect of the Dave & Buster's in-store experience and cannot be easily replicated at home. Many of our non-redemption games, which include our virtual reality, video, and simulation offerings, can be played by multiple customers simultaneously and include some of the latest high-tech games that are commercially available. These games represented approximately 26% of our amusement and other revenues in fiscal 2021. Other amusements, including billiards and bowling, represented the remainder of our amusement and other revenues in fiscal 2021.

### **Watch**

Sports-viewing is another key component of the entertainment experience at Dave & Buster's. All our stores have multiple large screen televisions and high-quality audio systems providing customers with a venue for watching live sports and other immersive programming. For 62 of our stores, we have an enhanced Watch experience with huge cutting-edge LED "Wow Walls", that differentiates Dave & Buster's by delivering an elevated viewing experience and providing a platform for broader programming and marketing opportunities. Our "D&B Sports" areas offer an immersive viewing environment that provides customers with large, high- definition televisions, to watch community-focused sports programming and enjoy our full bar and food menu. We believe that we have created an attractive and comfortable environment that includes a differentiated and interactive viewing experience for customers, and our goal is to build awareness of D&B Sports as "the best place to watch sports" and the "only place to watch the games and play the games."

### **Competitive Positioning**

The out-of-home entertainment market is highly competitive. We compete for customers' discretionary entertainment dollars with providers of out-of-home entertainment, including localized attraction facilities such as movie theaters, sporting events, bowling alleys, sports activity centers, arcades and entertainment centers, night clubs and restaurants as well as theme parks. We also face competition from local, regional, and national establishments that offer similar entertainment experiences and restaurants that are highly competitive with respect to price, quality of service, location, ambience and type and quality of food. Some of these establishments may exist in multiple locations, and we may also face competition on a national basis in the future from other concepts that are similar to our concept. We also face competition from increasingly sophisticated home-based forms of entertainment, such as internet and video gaming and home movie streaming and delivery.

The key elements that drive our total customer experience and help position us from a competitive standpoint include the following:

***Strong, distinctive brand with broad customer appeal.*** We believe that the multi-faceted customer experience of "Eat Drink Play and Watch" at Dave & Buster's, supported by our extensive marketing reach has helped us create a widely recognized brand. We have a high degree of awareness of our brand as a dining and entertainment venue, and a broad customer appeal with an attractive target demographic. Our primary target is adults 21-39, who make up over 60% of our customers. We focus primarily on the adult social occasion, which accounts for approximately 58% of our visits. We also appeal to families, who make up the remaining 42% of our visits.

**Multi-faceted customer experience highlights our value proposition.** We believe that our combination of interactive games, attractive television viewing areas, high-quality dining, and full-service beverage offerings, delivered in a highly energized atmosphere, provides a multi-faceted customer experience that cannot be easily replicated at home or elsewhere without having to visit multiple destinations. We aim to offer our customers a value proposition comparable or superior to many of the separately available dining and entertainment options. We are continuously working with game manufacturers and others to create new games and attractions that include content that is exclusively available at Dave & Buster's on a permanent or temporary basis. Our new games in combination with new food and beverage offerings and focused attention to the customer experience help us to retain and generate customer traffic. Our value proposition is enhanced by marketing initiatives, including free game play that often features the introduction of our new games, Power Card dollar volume discounts, and Half-Price Game Play (every Wednesday, from open to close, we reduce the price of games in the Midway by one-half). We believe these initiatives encourage customers to participate more fully across our broad range of food, beverage, and entertainment offerings.

**Vibrant, contemporary store design that integrates entertainment and dining.** We continue to enhance the Dave & Buster's brand through our store design. Our core store design provides a contemporary, engaging atmosphere for our customers with clearly differentiated spaces designed to convey the components of our customer value proposition: "Eat Drink Play and Watch." The oversized graphics and images throughout the store are intended to communicate our brand personality by being fun, contemporary, and larger-than-life. The dining room décor includes booth and table seating and colorful artwork, often featuring local landmarks. Our WIN! area provides a retail-like environment where customers can redeem their tickets for prizes. We believe our D&B Sports area provides an attractive opportunity to market our broader platform to new and existing customers through a year-round calendar of programming and promotions tied to popular sporting events and sport-related activities. The large television screens, comfortable seating, a full menu of food and beverages and artwork often featuring images of local sports teams and sports icons help create what we believe to be an exciting environment for watching sports and other programming.

**Strong history of growth.** We have a proven track record of improving operating results and expanding the footprint of our brand. While fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021 were unusual years due to the impact of COVID-19 on both revenues and margins, from fiscal 2015 to 2019, net income increased by \$92.6 million, EBITDA margins increased by approximately 130 basis points and our Adjusted EBITDA Margins (both defined in Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Non-GAAP Financial Measures") increased by approximately 120 basis points. During times of normal operations, we expect our continued focus on operating performance and leveraging of expenses will positively impact operating margins and will partially offset pressure from wage inflation and occupancy costs, although there is no guarantee that our efforts will be successful.

**Store model generates favorable store economics and strong returns.** We believe our store model offering entertainment, food, and beverage provides certain benefits in comparison to traditional restaurant concepts, which is reflected in our historically higher revenue per store, higher comparable store operating income margins, and higher comparable Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization Margins (defined in Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Non-GAAP Financial Measures").

Our entertainment offerings have low variable costs, generating a gross margin of 90.1% for fiscal 2021. With approximately 66.5% of our revenues from entertainment, we have less exposure than traditional restaurant concepts to food costs, which represented approximately 7% of our total revenues in fiscal 2021. Our business model generates strong cash flow that we can use to execute our growth strategy. We believe the combination of our operating income margins, our Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization Margins, our refined new store formats and the fact that our stores typically open with high volumes that drive margins in year one will help us achieve one-year and five-year cash-on-cash return targets. Historically, our average one-year and five-year cash-on-cash returns were approximately 35% and 25%, respectively. We define and calculate

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cash-on-cash returns for an individual store as (a) Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization, excluding pre-opening expenses, national marketing expense allocation, non-cash charges related to asset disposals, currency transactions and changes in non-cash deferred amusement revenue, divided by (b) our net development costs. Net development costs include equipment, building, leaseholds and site costs, net of tenant improvement allowances and other landlord payments, excluding pre-opening costs and capitalized interest.

**Commitment to customer satisfaction.** We aim to enhance our combination of food, beverage, and entertainment offerings through our service philosophy of providing a high quality and consistent customer experience through dedicated training and development of our team members and a corporate culture that encourages employee engagement.

### Strategy

During the first half of fiscal 2021, we focused on the re-opening of our remaining stores after mandated shutdowns related to COVID-19 during fiscal 2020, focusing on implementing our strategy to set us up for the next phase of growth in the latter half of the year. Our current strategy is built on the following key components:

**Drive our comparable store sales.** We intend to differentiate our brand from other food and entertainment alternatives and drive our comparable sales, in a competitive landscape, through the following strategies:

- *Offer novel food & drink to bring people together.* Our current menu offerings are designed to provide a differentiated food and beverage offering based on an “Inspired American Kitchen” identity. We aim to improve overall food quality, and to offer a wide variety of items including starters and shareable items, one-of-a-kind burgers and handhelds, choice-grade steaks, pasta, and low calorie, vegetarian, and gluten friendly options. We also plan to improve efficiency by simplifying execution, allowing us to deliver dishes hotter and faster to drive an improved customer experience. For our beverage offering, we plan to update the offering based on customer research, and plan to streamline the selection to improve execution efficiency. For both food and beverage, we aim to periodically introduce new items, and run limited time offers during key periods.
- *Offer the latest entertainment to enjoy together.* We believe that our Midway games are the core differentiating feature of the Dave & Buster’s brand and staying current with the latest offerings promotes trial and provides an exciting environment to enjoy games with friends and family, especially with the latest multiplayer games and challenges. We plan to continually update our games each year through development of innovative and proprietary games and the purchase of new games that will resonate with our customers and drive brand relevance due to a variety of factors, including their large scale, eye-catching appearance, virtual reality features, association with recognizable brands or the fact that they cannot be easily replicated at home. We also intend to extend our programming capabilities by offering more curated content and creating a calendar of ongoing and one-time events leveraging our investments in the best and latest audio-visual technology.
- *Align team and integrated experience.* We intend to consistently drive service excellence, including the use of technology to improve speed of service and to give our customers more control over their in-store experience. We will also refresh our commitment to serving customers through an improved hiring, training and service model, and our team will help create fun and bring our new strategies to life.
- *Drive customer engagement.* We will focus on delivering personalized messaging that connects with the customer to drive incremental visitation and will focus our advertising on communicating the emotional side of our brand promise. In addition, we will continue to leverage our customer relationship management program and our growing loyalty database by delivering more targeted individualized offers and creative content.

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**Invest in both our existing and new stores.** Beginning in fiscal 2022, the Company expects to commence a more robust investment program in targeted existing stores, including stores that have not had a major remodel in recent years. We also believe that the Dave & Buster's brand has significant growth opportunities, as internal studies and third-party research suggests a total store potential in the United States and Canada in excess of 230 stores (including our 144 stores as of the end of fiscal 2021). In fiscal 2021, we opened five new stores, including one store that was relocated. We will maintain a moderate pace of new store openings in fiscal 2022 as our business recovers from the impact of COVID-19. Longer term, the number of openings will depend on many factors, including our ability to locate appropriate sites, negotiate acceptable purchase or lease terms, generate sufficient operating cash flows or utilize available cash to finance construction of leasehold improvements and pre-opening costs, obtain necessary local governmental permits, and recruit and train management and hourly team members.

Regarding our long-term strategy of new store growth, we base new site selection on an analytical evaluation of a set of drivers we believe increase the probability of successful, high-volume stores, including site visibility, accessibility and traffic volume, and trade area demographics. The experience and relationships of our current development team has enabled us to focus our attention on the most relevant network of real estate brokers, which has given us access to a larger pool of qualified potential store sites. In addition, we believe the more contemporary look of our stores has been one of the key drivers in attracting new developers and building our new store pipeline.

We currently operate stores varying in size from 16,000 to 70,000 square feet. To optimize sales per square foot and further enhance our store economics we currently utilize three basic formats when designing new stores. The target size of our future large format stores is expected to be between 30,001 and 45,000 square feet, the target size of our future medium format stores is expected to be between 25,001 and 30,000 square feet while our small format stores are below 25,001 square feet. As of January 30, 2022, we operated 112 large format stores, 21 medium format stores and 11 small format stores.

We believe that the smaller store format allows us to reduce capital investment risk per store. For the smaller format, we have reduced the back-of-house space and optimized the customer facing area dedicated to video and redemption games. We believe that the smaller format maintains the dynamic customer experience that is the foundation of our brand and allows us flexibility in our site selection process.

### **Human Capital Management**

Our team members are the heart of our Company, and they help us run the fun in our stores every day. We depend on our team members to provide great service and maintain consistently strong operations. Our ability to attract and retain an engaged and experienced team is critical to successful execution of our business strategies. While we continue to operate in a competitive labor environment, we believe our culture, policies, and labor practices contribute to strong relations with our team members. (See Item 1A. Risk Factors, *“Our success depends upon our ability to recruit and retain qualified store management and operating personnel while also controlling our labor costs.”*)

### **Our Culture**

In our stores and at our store support center, we are committed to being fun creators. Our team members share a deep commitment to four culture pillars that describe the relationships our team members have with our customers and each other. We are devoted to our “You Got It” service philosophy that calls us to provide exceptional service to our customers and to each other every day. Our “Play Your Heart Out” attitude encourages intensity, hard work, and having fun. We firmly believe we are “Better Together,” and through this culture pillar we encourage inclusivity, teamwork, and good judgment. Finally, we encourage all team members to be “Game Changers” committed to innovation, embracing change, and continuous learning and growth.



### ***Our Team***

At January 30, 2022, we employed 13,783 team members, consisting of 197 store support, 102 dedicated special events sales force, 1,090 store management, and 12,394 store hourly. Included in our total team members are 186 store hourly team members on leave while the Company's two Canadian stores were temporarily closed at the end of fiscal 2021.

Our Better Together culture pillar binds us to a shared commitment to attract, retain, engage, and develop a team that mirrors the diversity of the customers we serve. We strive to provide inclusive fun for all, and we believe our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion promotes teamwork to achieve our common goals, helps our team members reach their highest potential at work, enables our team members to make better decisions to serve all our stakeholders, and fuels innovation. Racial minorities make up over 61% of our U.S. workforce, and we are proud of our diversity, which is summarized below:

|  | <u>Male</u>  | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u>  |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| White                                  | 19.7%        | 18.7%         | 38.4%         |
| Hispanic                               | 15.8%        | 13.3%         | 29.1%         |
| Black or African American              | 14.8%        | 13.0%         | 27.8%         |
| Asian/American Indian/Pacific Islander | 2.3%         | 1.8%          | 4.1%          |
| Two or more races                      | 0.4%         | 0.2%          | 0.6%          |
| Total                                  | <u>53.0%</u> | <u>47.0%</u>  | <u>100.0%</u> |

In fiscal 2021, we strengthened our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Among other key accomplishments, we:

- progressed on our goals to improve representation of women and team members who are black, indigenous or people of color (BIPOC) in our corporate and field leadership each by 33% before the end of FY2025;
- completed system-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion training;
- emphasized our commitment to diversity and belonging throughout the year in internal and external communications, including social media;
- achieved scores for overall engagement, diversity, inclusion, and fair treatment on our semi-annual Gallup Engagement Survey that exceeded the average for our industry and for all U.S. employers; and
- were named to Forbes' 2021 lists of America's Best Large Employer, Best Employers for Diversity, and Best Employers for Women.

In addition to our focus on improving diversity, equity, and inclusion, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to demand heightened focus on health and safety for our team members and our customers throughout fiscal 2021. Health and safety have always been a top priority for our Company, but in response to the pandemic, we implemented several changes for the protection of our team members and our customers that have included, among other precautions, installing multiple sanitation stations in all stores, dedicating staff to cleaning stores, requiring face masks during surges in case counts, and requiring vaccinations where required by state or local law. Our cross-functional COVID-19 response team continues to assess the latest guidance from local, state and federal health agencies, and we update our safety protocols in real time as government mandates change in the various jurisdictions where we have operations.

We believe our culture, policies, and labor practices contribute to strong engagement with our team members. In particular, our leaders work to develop and maintain strong communications and relationships with our team members.

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### ***Our Leadership Team***

We are led by a strong senior management team averaging over 20 years of experience with national brands spanning casual dining, entertainment, and other consumer-centric industries. We believe that our management team's prior experience, combined with its experience at Dave & Buster's provides us with insights into our customer base and enables us to create the dynamic environment that is core to our brand.

### ***Our Store Teams***

Our typical store team consists of a General Manager supported by an average of six to seven additional management positions per store. Management team members handle various departments within the store including responsibility for hourly team members. A typical store employs approximately 86 hourly team members, most of whom work part-time. This is less than our pre-COVID store average of 110 due in part to an increase in average weekly hours worked by our team members as well as a new but still-evolving labor model that leverages our technology investments and requires slightly less management and/or hourly positions than historical levels.

The General Manager and the management team are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the store, including the hiring, training, and development of team members, as well as financial and operational performance. There is a defined structure of development and progression of job responsibilities within the supporting management positions to ensure that an adequate succession plan exists within each store. Each store is overseen by a Regional Operations Manager, Regional Operations Director, Senior Regional Operations Director or Vice President of Operations (collectively, "Regional Management") who directly or indirectly report to our Chief Operating Officer. We are proud of our store leadership teams' experience and carefully monitor store management team retention rates, which for us has consistently tracked in the top quartile of the upscale casual dining industry.

During the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period, to comply with various federal, state and local guidelines and in response to changing customer levels, our stores operated with reduced hours of operation. Generally, our stores have returned to pre-pandemic operating hours and are open seven days a week, typically from 11:00 a.m. to midnight, with some stores open for extended hours on weekends.

### ***Attracting Talent***

We seek to hire experienced leaders and team members and offer competitive wage and benefit programs. We offer performance-based compensation programs to our store management and store support center employees. In addition to salaries, these programs (which vary by employee level) include, among other items, bonuses, stock awards, and various employee assistance programs. In addition, our salaried and hourly team members are also eligible to participate in a 401(k) plan, medical/dental/vision insurance plans and receive vacation/paid time off based on tenure.

### ***Developing Talent***

We motivate and develop our team members by providing them with opportunities for increased responsibilities and advancement. Throughout the year, we provide numerous training opportunities for our team members, with a focus on continuous learning and development. With hundreds of leadership positions across our stores, we provide a pathway and training for individuals across the organization to advance from entry-level jobs into management roles. In addition, our geographic footprint often allows us to offer our store team members relocation options.

We strive to maintain quality and consistency in each of our stores through the careful training and supervision of our team members and the establishment of, and adherence to, high standards relating to personnel

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performance, food and beverage preparation, safety protocols, game playability and maintenance of our stores. We provide new team members with comprehensive orientation and one-on-one training for their positions to help ensure they meet our high standards. New team members are trained by partnering with a trainer to assure that the training and information they receive is complete and accurate. Team members are certified for their positions by passing a series of tests, including alcohol awareness and responsibility training for service team members.

We require our new store managers to complete an eight-week training program that includes front-of-house service, kitchen, amusements, and management responsibilities. Newly trained managers are then assigned to their home store, where they receive additional training with their General Manager. Their last two weeks of training include a comprehensive validation of new skills. We place a high priority on our continuing management development programs to ensure that qualified managers are available for our future openings. We conduct regular evaluations with each manager to discuss prior performance and future performance goals. We hold an annual General Manager conference in which our General Managers share best practices and receive an update on our business strategies.

When we open a new store, we provide varying levels of training to team members in each position to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the store from the first day it opens to the public. Prior to opening a new store, our dedicated training and opening team travels to the store to deliver an intensive training program for all team members. We believe this additional investment in our new stores is important because it helps us provide our customers with a quality experience from day one. After a store has been opened and is operating smoothly, the store managers supervise the training of new team members.

### ***Corporate Responsibility***

Our core value of “Better Together” calls each of our team members to care for each other, our customers, and the communities we serve. We will not do business with organizations that employ or condone unfair labor practices anywhere in the world. We partner with suppliers who share our commitment to ethical business conduct, fair labor practices, proven environmental, health, and safety practices, and environmental sustainability. We also specifically condemn human trafficking and abuse of child labor. We understand that supporting our communities includes being good environmental stewards and striving to conduct business in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.

In addition, we strongly encourage team members to give back to the communities we serve. Although our Company invests time and resources in many charitable causes, we have two main causes we focus our efforts to support. The first is our long-standing partnership with Make-A-Wish, which we have proudly supported in a national partnership since April 2012. To date, we have given over \$15.0 million to this worthy cause, and we participate in several events throughout the year both in our stores and at our store support center to raise money for Make-A-Wish. We also volunteer our time and talents.

In addition, we invest in helping our own team members during their times of greatest need. The D&B H.E.A.R.T. (Helping Employees at Rough Times) Fund is an independent non-profit established to create an employee assistance fund for the benefit of team members who suffer catastrophic events resulting in severe economic hardship. The D&B H.E.A.R.T. Fund is financed by contributions from our employees, customers, and business partners.

### **Advertising and Marketing**

We use advertising and marketing to build awareness and strengthen our brand relevance. We spent approximately \$32.2 million in marketing efforts in fiscal 2021, \$21.1 million in fiscal 2020, and \$44.8 million in fiscal 2019. During fiscal 2020, due to the temporary closures, capacity restrictions and other operating limitations imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we substantially curtailed national cable television

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media, which continues to be the largest portion of our advertising and marketing spend. In the future, we plan to shift some funding to other forms of media, including investments in social and digital video, and test new types of programmatic display and digital audio. To enhance our marketing efforts, we also conduct digital initiatives including search engine marketing and optimization, mobile campaigns, and website improvements. We also execute periodic promotions, create in-store point-of-purchase materials and execute local marketing plans to address specific objectives in individual stores or markets. We work with external advertising, digital, media and design agencies in the development and execution of these programs.

We have recently invested in developing and implementing new technology platforms that will allow us to digitally engage with our customers and team members and strengthen our marketing and analytics capabilities in an increasingly connected society. While our investment efforts were significantly curtailed during fiscal 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our efforts were renewed during the second half of fiscal 2021. Central to this effort is continued investment in our mobile application platform, which is used to enhance existing customer satisfaction and attract new customers by providing periodic exclusive offers and discounts and providing a convenient way to purchase Power Cards. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, we launched an enhanced loyalty program. The Dave & Buster's Rewards Program is a customer recognition program that rewards members primarily for their game chips played. Eligible members have the ability to level-up by playing game chips, and members are rewarded with free game play or food offers based on their level. We expect that as our loyalty program grows it will be an important method of maintaining customers' connection with our brand and further drive customer satisfaction.

We utilize a number of other initiatives to continually improve our market effectiveness, including refining our marketing strategy to better reach both young adults and families, creating new advertising campaigns, investing in menu research and development to differentiate our food offerings from our competition and improve key product attributes (quality, consistency, value and overall customer satisfaction) and execution, developing product/promotional strategies to attract new customers and increase spending/length of stay, and reflecting a consistent brand identity that represents our positioning and commitment to quality.

Our special event marketing programs are managed by our sales department, which provides direction, training, and support to our special events team consisting of district sales managers and sales managers. Our special events programs are supported by targeted print and online media plans, as well as promotional incentives at appropriate times during the year. In addition, we have online booking for social parties to provide additional convenience in booking events for our customers.

### ***Information Technology and Cyber Security***

We utilize several proprietary and third-party management information systems. These systems are designed to enable our games' functionality, improve operating efficiencies, provide us with timely access to financial and marketing data and reduce store and corporate administrative time and expense. We believe our management information systems are sufficient to support our business plans. Information systems projects are prioritized based upon strategic, financial, regulatory and other business advantage criteria.

Our managers have daily routines focused on driving consistent execution in food, beverage, and amusements. We utilize a customized food and beverage analysis program that determines the theoretical food and beverage costs for each store and provides additional tools and reports to help us identify opportunities, including waste management. In addition to our own routines, we leverage a third-party vendor to help ensure quality beverage operations, responsible alcohol service and loss prevention. Our workforce management platform also allows management to quickly add or reduce labor based on real-time business needs and historically assisted our managers in optimizing hourly labor based on anticipated sales volumes. Our amusement team uses a proprietary system that is supported by a mobile application that identifies amusement issues and needed repairs to help ensure our games are operational and meeting our ideal playing standard. Complementing this program is our routine preventative maintenance program, designed to prevent game failure and extend the

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functionality of our games. Consolidated reporting tools for the key drivers of our business are provided to our Regional Management to identify and troubleshoot any systemic issues.

During 2019, we invested in connectivity and data infrastructure to modernize and upgrade the capacity of our store systems, continued work on new, customer-facing digital experiences, such as the launch of our new mobile application that supports in-store and off premise amusement entertainment, and deployed hand-held point-of-sale devices to a limited group of stores. Our investment efforts were significantly curtailed during fiscal 2020 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we renewed our investment in fiscal 2021, deploying hand-held point-of-sale devices to the remainder of our stores.

We accept electronic payment cards from our customers for payment in our stores. We also receive and maintain certain personal information about our customers and team members. We have systems and processes in place that focus on the protection of our customers' credit card information and other private information we are required to protect, such as our employees' personal information. Our existing cyber security policy includes cyber security techniques, tactics, and procedures, including continuous monitoring and detection programs, network protections, employee training and awareness and incident response preparedness. In addition, we periodically scan our environment for any vulnerability, perform penetration testing and engage third parties to assess effectiveness of our data security practices. We utilize a voluntary tool to help manage privacy risk by independently benchmarking our cyber security program to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, using an independent third party, and we share the results of our annual audit with our Audit Committee.

### ***Food Preparation, Quality Control and Purchasing***

We strive to maintain high food quality standards. To ensure our quality standards are met, we negotiate directly with independent producers of food products. We provide detailed quality and yield specifications to suppliers for our purchases. Our systems are designed to protect the safety and quality of our food supply throughout the procurement and preparation process. Within each store, the Kitchen Manager is primarily responsible for ensuring the timely and correct preparation of food products per the recipes we specify. We provide each of our stores with various tools and training to facilitate these activities.

### ***Foreign Operations***

We own and operate two stores outside of the United States in the Canadian province of Ontario. These stores generated revenues of approximately \$6.9 million, \$2.9 million, and \$18.6 million in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively, representing approximately 0.5%, 0.7%, and 1.4%, respectively, of our consolidated revenues. During fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, our Canadian stores were only able to operate a combined 48 and 39 weeks, respectively. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada's health restrictions have consistently been more stringent than the United States. These restrictions include closure, capacity limits, vaccination mandates, and face mask requirements, among others. At January 30, 2022, less than 2.0% of our long-lived assets were located outside of the United States.

The foreign activities of these stores are subject to various risks of doing business in a foreign country, including currency fluctuations, changes in laws and regulations and economic and political stability. We do not believe there is any material risk associated with the Canadian operations or any dependence by the domestic business upon the Canadian operations.

### ***Store-Level Quarterly Fluctuations and Seasonality***

Our revenues are influenced by seasonal shifts in consumer spending. Typically, we have higher revenues associated with the spring and year-end holidays, which will continue to be susceptible to the impact of severe or unseasonably mild weather on customer traffic and sales during that period. Our third quarter, which encompasses the back-to-school fall season, has historically had lower revenues as compared to other quarters.

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During fiscal 2020 and the first half of fiscal 2021, results also fluctuated due to the timing and frequency of temporary closures and operating restrictions as a result of state and local guidelines imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Suppliers***

The principal goods used by us are redemption game prizes and food and beverage products, which are available from a number of suppliers. We currently purchase a significant amount of our amusement merchandise through a direct import program, a program in which we purchase WIN! merchandise and certain furniture directly from offshore manufacturers. We are a large buyer of traditional and amusement games and as a result believe we receive discounted pricing arrangements. Federal and state health care mandates and mandated increases in the minimum wage and other macro-economic pressures could have the repercussion of increasing expenses, as suppliers may be adversely impacted and seek to pass on higher costs to us.

### ***Intellectual Property***

We have registered the trademarks Dave & Buster's<sup>®</sup>, Power Card<sup>®</sup>, Eat & Play Combo<sup>®</sup>, Eat Drink Play<sup>®</sup>, and Eat Drink Play Watch<sup>®</sup>, and have registered or applied to register certain additional trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and in various foreign countries. We consider our tradename and our logo to be important features of our operations and seek to actively monitor and protect our interest in this property in the various jurisdictions where we operate. We also have certain trade secrets, such as our recipes, processes, proprietary information and certain software programs that we protect by requiring all of our employees to sign a code of ethics, which includes an agreement to keep trade secrets confidential.

### ***Government Regulation***

We are subject to a variety of federal, state and local laws affecting our business. For a discussion of the risks and potential impact on our business of a failure by us to comply with applicable laws and regulations, see "Item 1A. Risk Factors." Each of our stores is subject to permitting and licensing requirements and regulations by a number of government authorities, which may include, among others, alcoholic beverage control, health and safety, sanitation, environmental, labor and zoning. The development and construction of new stores is subject to compliance with applicable zoning, land use and environmental regulations. We must comply with laws and regulations relating to consumer protection, fair trade practices, and the preparation and sale of food, including regulations regarding product safety, nutritional content and menu labeling. We are also subject to federal, state, and local laws that govern health benefits, employment practices and working conditions, including minimum wage rates, wage and hour practices, gratuities, overtime, various family leave mandates, discrimination and harassment, immigration, workplace safety and other areas. In California, we are subject to the Private Attorneys General Act, which authorizes employees to file lawsuits to recover civil penalties on behalf of themselves, other employees, and the State of California for labor code violations. We must comply with laws relating to information security, consumer credit protection and fraud, and data privacy laws and standards for the protection of personal and health information.

### ***Available Information***

Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act are available free of charge through our internet website, at [www.daveandbusters.com](http://www.daveandbusters.com), as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Such reports may also be obtained on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Information on our corporate governance principles and practices can also be found on our website.

**ITEM 1A. Risk Factors**

Various risks and uncertainties could affect our business. In addition to the information contained elsewhere in this report and other filings that we make with the SEC, the risk factors described below could have a material impact on our business, financial condition, results of operation, cash flows or the trading price of our common stock. It is not possible to identify all risk factors. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe to be immaterial may also impair our business operations.

***Risks Related to our Growth and Operating Strategy***

***The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted and is expected to continue to disrupt our business, which has had a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, liquidity and financial condition and could continue for an extended period of time. Future outbreaks of contagious diseases or other adverse public health developments in the United States or worldwide could have similar impacts on our business.***

The COVID-19 pandemic had a material adverse impact on our business in fiscal 2020, and, during fiscal 2021, continued to have a significant adverse impact on our business and results of operations. At the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak, all our stores were closed. As stores re-opened, the Company experienced same-store sales declines due to modified operating hours, occupancy restrictions, and reduced customer traffic. While nearly all our stores have now re-opened, we expect that our operations will continue to be impacted by the continuing effects of COVID-19, including resurgences and variants of the virus. It remains difficult to predict the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the broader economy and how consumer behavior may change, and whether such change is temporary or permanent. Social distancing, telecommunicating and reductions in travel may become the new normal. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has required and may continue to require us to make controversial decisions about precautionary measures, such as vaccinations, showing proof of vaccinations and face coverings, that could impact our results, including by impacting our brand, our employee retention and satisfaction, and the willingness of customers to patronize our stores. All these conditions could fundamentally impact the way we work and the services we provide and could have continuing adverse effects on our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition. Prolonged volatility or significant disruption of global financial markets due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic could have a negative impact on our ability to access capital markets and other funding sources, on acceptable terms or at all, and impede our ability to comply with our recently re-instated debt covenants or our ability to obtain additional waivers or amendments, if necessary, and the Company could also incur additional impairment charges of our long-lived assets or impairments of goodwill or other intangibles, which may have a significant or material impact on our financial results.

The extent to which the current or future outbreaks of disease or similar public health threats materially and adversely impact our business, results of operations, liquidity and financial condition is highly uncertain and will depend on future developments. Such developments may include the geographic spread of variants and duration of the virus, the severity of the disease and the mitigating and remedial actions that may be taken by various governmental authorities and other third parties in response to the outbreak. In addition, how quickly, and to what extent, normal economic and operating conditions can be maintained or resumed cannot be predicted, and the resumption of normal business operations may be delayed or constrained by lingering effects of any pandemic on us or our suppliers, third-party service providers, and/or customers.

***If we are unable to successfully design and execute our business strategy plan, including growing comparable store sales, our revenues and profitability may be adversely affected.***

Our ability to increase revenues and profitability is dependent on designing and executing effective business strategies. If we are delayed or unsuccessful in executing our strategies or if our strategies do not yield desired results, our business, financial condition and results of operations may suffer. Our ability to meet our business strategy plan is dependent upon, among other things, our ability to:

- increase gross sales and operating profits at existing stores with food, beverage, game and entertainment options desired by our customers;

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- evolve our marketing and branding strategies to appeal to our customers;
- innovate and implement technology initiatives to provide a unique digital customer experience;
- identify adequate sources of capital to fund and finance strategic initiatives;
- grow and expand operations; and
- improve the speed and quality of our service.

### ***Changes in consumer preferences and buying patterns could negatively affect our results of operations.***

The success of our stores depends in large part on leased locations. Our locations are primarily located near high density retail areas such as regional malls, lifestyle centers, big box shopping centers and entertainment centers. We depend on a high volume of visitors at these centers to attract customers to our locations. As demographic and economic patterns change, current locations may or may not continue to be attractive or profitable. E-commerce or online shopping continues to increase and negatively impact consumer traffic at traditional “brick and mortar” retail sites located in regional malls, lifestyle centers, big box shopping centers and entertainment centers. A decline in development or closures of businesses in these settings or a decline in visitors to retail areas near our locations could negatively affect our sales. In addition, desirable sites for the relocation of existing stores may not be available at an acceptable cost, due in part to the inability to easily terminate a long-term lease.

Consumers’ health and dietary preferences are continually changing. As a result, we are challenged to evolve our food and beverage menu offerings to appeal to these changing customer preferences, while maintaining our brand character and retaining popular menu items. New information or changes in dietary, nutritional, allergen or health guidelines or environmental or sustainability concerns, whether issued by governmental agencies, academic studies, advocacy organizations or similar groups, may cause some groups of consumers to select foods other than those that are offered by our stores. Additionally, it is unclear currently if the COVID-19 pandemic may have a lasting impact on consumer demand. If we fail to anticipate changing trends or other consumer preferences, our business, financial condition and results of operations would be adversely affected.

Advances in technologies or certain changes in consumer behavior driven by such technologies could have a negative effect on our business. Technology and consumer offerings continue to develop, and we expect new or enhanced technologies and consumer offerings will be available in the future. As part of our marketing efforts, we use a variety of digital platforms including search engines, mobile, online videos and social media platforms such as Facebook<sup>®</sup>, Twitter<sup>®</sup> and Instagram<sup>®</sup> to attract and retain customers. We also test new technology platforms to improve our level of digital engagement with our customers and employees to help strengthen our marketing and related consumer analytics capabilities. These initiatives may not prove to be successful and may result in expenses incurred without the benefit of higher revenues or increased engagement. Our inability to effectively use and monitor social media could harm our marketing efforts as well as our reputation, which could negatively impact our sales and financial performance.

### ***We may not be able to compete favorably in the highly competitive out-of-home and home-based entertainment and restaurant markets, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.***

The out-of-home entertainment market is highly competitive. We compete for customers’ discretionary entertainment dollars with providers of out-of-home entertainment, including localized attraction facilities such as movie theatres, sporting events, bowling alleys, sports activity centers, arcades and entertainment centers, nightclubs, and restaurants as well as theme parks. Many of the entities operating these businesses are larger and have significantly greater financial resources, have a greater number of stores, have been in business longer, have greater name recognition and are better established in the markets where our stores are located or are planned to



be located. As a result, they may be able to invest greater resources than we can in attracting customers and succeed in attracting customers who would otherwise come to our stores. The legalization of casino gambling in geographic areas near any current or future store and the expanded availability of online sports betting could also have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition. We also face competition from local, regional, and national establishments that offer similar entertainment experiences to ours and restaurants that are highly competitive with respect to price, quality of service, location, ambience and type and quality of food. We also face competition from increasingly sophisticated home-based forms of entertainment, such as internet and video gaming and home movie streaming and delivery. Our failure to compete favorably in the competitive out-of-home and home-based entertainment and restaurant markets could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Unfavorable publicity or a failure to respond effectively to adverse publicity, could harm our business.***

Our brand and our reputation are among our most important assets. Our ability to attract and retain customers depends, in part, upon the external perception of our Company, the quality of our food service and facilities and our integrity. Multi-store businesses, such as ours, can be adversely affected by unfavorable publicity resulting from poor food quality, food safety concerns, flu or other virus outbreaks and other public health concerns stemming from one or a limited number of our stores. While we dedicate substantial resources and provide training to ensure the safety and quality of the food we serve, these risks cannot be eliminated. Additionally, we rely on our network of suppliers to properly handle, store, and transport our ingredients for delivery to our stores. Any failure by our suppliers, or their suppliers, could cause our ingredients to be contaminated, which could be difficult to detect and put the safety of our food in jeopardy. The risk of food-borne illness also may increase whenever our menu items are served outside of our control, such as by third-party food delivery services or customer take-out.

Negative publicity may also result from criminal incidents, data privacy breaches, scandals involving our employees or operational problems at our stores. Regardless of whether the allegations or complaints are valid, unfavorable publicity related to one or more of our stores could affect public perception of the entire brand. Even incidents at similar businesses such as restaurants, our competitors, or in the supply chain generally could result in negative publicity that could indirectly harm our brand. If one or more of our stores were the subject of unfavorable publicity and we are unable to quickly and effectively respond to such reports, our overall brand could be adversely affected, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

There has been a significant increase in the use of social media and similar platforms, including weblogs (blogs), social media websites and other forms of internet-based communications that allow individuals access to a broad audience of consumers and other interested persons. Consumers value readily available information concerning goods and services that they have or plan to purchase and may act on such information without further investigation or authentication. Many social media platforms immediately publish the content their subscribers and participants post, often without filters or checks on accuracy of the content posted. The opportunity exists for dissemination of information, including inaccurate information, to spread quickly. Inaccurate or adverse information concerning our Company may be posted on such platforms at any time. The harm may be immediate without affording us an opportunity for redress or correction. Such platforms also may be used for dissemination of trade secret information, compromising valuable company assets. In summary, the dissemination of information via social media and similar platforms may harm our business, prospects, financial condition, and results of operations, regardless of the information's accuracy. The inappropriate use of social media vehicles by our customers or employees could increase our costs, lead to litigation, or result in negative publicity that could damage our reputation.

Further, if we are not effective in addressing social and environmental responsibility matters or achieving relevant sustainability goals, consumer trust in our brand may suffer. Consumer demand for our products and our brand value could diminish significantly if any such incidents or other matters erode consumer confidence in us or our products, which would likely result in lower revenues.

***We are subject to risks associated with leasing space subject to long-term, non-cancelable leases, and risks related to renewal.***

We typically do not own real property for long periods. Payments under our non-cancelable, long-term operating leases account for a significant portion of our operating expenses and we expect the new stores we open in the future will also be predominantly leased. The leases typically provide for a base rent plus additional rent based on a percentage of the revenue generated by the stores on the leased premises once certain thresholds are met. We generally cannot cancel these leases without substantial economic penalty. If an existing or future store is not profitable, and we decide to close it, we may nonetheless be committed to perform our obligation under the applicable lease, including, among other things, paying the base rent for the remainder of the lease term. We depend on cash flow from operations to pay our lease obligations. If our business does not generate adequate cash flow from operating activities and sufficient funds are not otherwise available to us from borrowings under our existing credit facility, we may not be able to service our operating lease obligations, grow our business, respond to competitive challenges, or fund other liquidity and capital needs, all of which could have a material adverse effect on us.

In addition, as each of our leases expires, we may choose not to renew, or may not be able to renew, such existing leases if the capital investment required to maintain the stores at the leased locations is not justified by the return required on the investment. If we are not able to renew the leases at rents that allow such stores to remain profitable as their terms expire, the number of such stores may decrease, resulting in lower revenue from operations, or we may relocate a store, which could subject us to construction and other costs and risks, and, in either case, could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Our financial performance and the ability to successfully implement our strategic direction could be adversely affected if we fail to retain, or effectively respond to a loss of, key management.***

Our future success is substantially supported by the contributions and abilities of senior management, including key executives and other leadership team members. Changes in senior management could expose us to significant changes in strategic direction and initiatives. A failure to maintain appropriate organizational capacity and capability to support leadership excellence or a loss of key skill sets could jeopardize our ability to meet our business performance expectations and growth targets. Although we have employment agreements with all members of senior management, we cannot prevent members of senior management from terminating their employment with us. The departure of a member of senior management and/or the failure to ensure an effective transfer of knowledge and a smooth transition upon such departure may be disruptive to the business and could hinder our strategic planning and execution.

***We face risks related to our substantial indebtedness and limitations on future sources of liquidity.***

Our substantial indebtedness could have important consequences to us, including:

- making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our debt, and any failure to comply with the obligations under our debt instruments, including restrictive covenants, could result in an event of default under the agreements governing our indebtedness increasing our vulnerability to general economic and industry conditions, including as a result of disruption caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic;
- requiring a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to be dedicated to the payment of obligations with respect to our debt, thereby reducing our ability to use our cash flow to fund our operations, lease payments, capital expenditures, selling and marketing efforts, product development, future business opportunities and other purposes;
- exposing us to the risk of increased interest rates as some of our borrowings are at variable rates;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, product development, debt service requirements, strategic acquisitions, and general corporate or other purposes; and

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- limiting our ability to plan for, or adjust to, changing market conditions and placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors who may be less highly leveraged.

### ***Covenants in our debt agreements restrict our business and could limit our ability to implement our business plan.***

The credit facility and the indenture governing the senior secured notes contain covenants that may restrict our ability to implement our business plan, finance future operations, respond to changing business and economic conditions, secure additional financing, and engage in opportunistic transactions, such as strategic acquisitions. In addition, if we fail to satisfy the covenants contained in the credit facility, our ability to borrow under the revolving credit loans portion of the credit facility may be restricted. The credit facility and the indenture governing the senior secured notes include covenants restricting, among other things, our ability to do the following under certain circumstances:

- incur or guarantee additional indebtedness or issue certain disqualified or preferred stock;
- pay dividends or make other distributions on, or redeem or purchase any equity interests or make other restricted payments;
- make certain acquisitions or investments;
- create or incur liens;
- transfer or sell assets;
- incur restrictions on the payment of dividends or other distributions from our restricted subsidiaries;
- alter the business that we conduct;
- enter into transactions with affiliates; and
- consummate a merger or consolidation or sell, assign, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all our assets.

The covenants in the credit facility are generally more restrictive than the covenants in the indenture governing the senior secured notes and place certain limitations on our ability to: incur additional indebtedness, make loans or advances to subsidiaries and other entities, pay dividends, acquire other businesses or sell assets. In addition, after the financial covenant suspension period, our credit facility requires us to comply with a total leverage ratio that is no greater than the applicable financial covenant level and a fixed charge ratio that is no greater than 1.25:1.00, which are each tested as of the last day of each fiscal quarter.

Events beyond our control, including the impact of COVID-19, may affect our ability to comply with our covenants. If we default under the credit facility or the indenture governing the senior secured notes, because of a covenant breach or otherwise, all outstanding amounts thereunder could become immediately due and payable. We cannot assure that we will be able to comply with our covenants under the credit facility, or the indenture governing the senior secured notes or that any covenant violations will be waived in the future. Any violation that is not waived could result in an event of default, permitting our lenders to declare outstanding indebtedness and interest thereon due and payable, and permitting the lenders under the revolving credit loans provided under the credit facility to suspend commitments to make any advance, or require any outstanding letters of credit to be collateralized by an interest bearing cash account, any or all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, if we fail to comply with our financial or other covenants under the credit facility or the indenture governing the senior secured notes, we may need additional financing to service or extinguish our indebtedness. We may not be able to obtain financing or refinancing on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. We cannot assure that we would have sufficient funds to repay outstanding amounts under the credit facility or the indenture governing the senior secured notes and any acceleration of amounts due would have a material adverse effect on our liquidity and financial condition.

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***The success of our longer-term growth strategy depends in part on our ability to open and operate new stores profitably, and on our ability to optimize our existing stores.***

Our ability to timely and efficiently open new stores and to operate these stores on a profitable basis is dependent on numerous factors including quality locations, acceptable lease or purchase agreements, zoning, use and other regulations, our liquidity, staffing needs and training, permitting, customer acceptance, impact on existing stores and financial performance targets. The timing of new store openings may result in significant fluctuations in our quarterly performance. We typically incur significant costs prior to opening for pre-opening and construction and increased labor and operating costs for a newly opened store. Due to these substantial upfront financial requirements to open new stores, the investment risk related to any single store is much larger than that associated with many other restaurant or entertainment venues.

Our long-term growth strategy depends, in part, on our ability to remodel existing stores in a manner that achieves appropriate returns on our capital investment. A robust store remodel program will require significant capital investment, based on the condition of each store as well as other factors, including the optimization of the size and layout of our existing stores to ensure maximum space utilization. Pursuing the wrong remodel and any delays, cost increases, disruptions or other uncertainties related to those opportunities could adversely affect our results of operations.

### ***Risks Related to Information Technology and Cyber Security***

***Information technology system failures or interruptions may impact our ability to effectively operate our business.***

We rely heavily on various information technology systems, including point-of-sale, kiosk and amusement operations systems in our stores, data centers that process transactions, communication systems and various other software applications used throughout our operations. Some of these systems have been internally developed or we rely on third party providers and platforms for some of these information technology systems and support. Although we have operational safeguards in place, those technology systems and solutions could become vulnerable to damage, disability, or failures due to theft, fire, power outages, telecommunications failure or other catastrophic events. Any failure of these systems could significantly impact our operations. We rely on third-party service providers for certain key elements of our operations including credit card processing, telecommunications, and utilities. Our reliance on systems operated by third parties also presents the risk faced by the third party's business, including the operational, cyber security, and credit risks of those parties. If those systems were to fail or otherwise be unavailable, and we were unable to timely recover, we could experience an interruption in, or other material adverse effect on, our operations.

***Cyber security breaches or other privacy or data security incidents that expose confidential customer, personal employee or other material, confidential information that is stored in our information systems or by third parties may adversely impact our business.***

Many of our information technology systems (and those of our third-party business partners, whether cloud-based or hosted in proprietary servers), including those used for point-of-sale, web and mobile platforms, mobile payment systems and administrative functions including time and attendance reporting and payroll processing, contain personal, financial, or other information that is entrusted to us by our customers and team members. Many of our information technology systems also contain proprietary and other confidential information related to our business, such as business plans and initiatives. A cyber incident (generally any intentional or unintentional attack that results in unauthorized access resulting in disruption of systems, corruption of data, theft or exposure of confidential information or intellectual property) that compromises the information of our customers or employees could result in widespread negative publicity, damage to our reputation, a loss of customers, , additional costs, litigation claims, legal or regulatory proceedings, fines or penalties, remediation costs, a negative impact on team member morale, or other impacts to our business.

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Our existing cyber security policy includes cyber security techniques, tactics, and procedures, including continuous monitoring and detection programs, network protections, annual employee training and awareness and incident response preparedness. In addition, we periodically scan our environment for any vulnerabilities, perform penetration testing and engage third parties to assess effectiveness of our security measures. We utilize a voluntary tool to help manage privacy risk by independently benchmarking our cyber security program to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, using an independent third party, and we share the results of our annual audit with our Audit Committee. Although we employ security technologies and practices and have taken other steps to try to prevent a breach, there are no assurances that such measures will prevent or detect cyber security breaches, and we may nevertheless not have the resources or technical sophistication to prevent rapidly evolving types of cyberattacks. We maintain a separate insurance policy covering cybersecurity risks and such insurance coverage may, subject to policy terms and conditions, cover certain aspects of cyber risks, but this policy is subject to a retention amount and may not be applicable to a particular incident or otherwise may be insufficient to cover all our losses beyond any retention. Based on recent court rulings, there is uncertainty as to whether traditional commercial general liability policies will be construed to cover the expenses related to cyberattacks and breaches if credit and debit card information is stolen.

We have been and likely will continue to be, the target of cyber and other security threats. If in the future, we experience a security breach, we could become subject to claims, lawsuits or other proceedings for purportedly fraudulent transactions arising out of the theft of credit or debit card information, compromised security and information systems, failure of our employees to comply with applicable laws, the unauthorized acquisition or use of such information by third parties, or other similar claims, and such claims, lawsuits or other proceedings could have a material and adverse effect on our operations, results of operations, and financial condition.

***Compliance with cybersecurity, privacy and similar laws may involve significant cost and any failure to comply could adversely affect our business, reputation, and results of operations.***

The regulatory environment surrounding information security, privacy, and other matters involving consumer protection is increasingly demanding, with the frequent imposition of new and constantly changing requirements. Compliance with these requirements can be costly and time-consuming and the costs could adversely impact our results of operations due to necessary system changes and the development of new administrative processes. The California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018, for example, provides a private right of action for data breaches and requires companies that process information about California residents to make new disclosures to consumers about their data collection, use and sharing practices and allow consumers to opt out of certain data sharing with third parties. Security breaches could also result in a violation of applicable privacy and other laws, and subject us to private consumer, business partner or securities litigation and governmental investigations and proceedings, any of which could result in our exposure to material civil or criminal liability. We are required to maintain the highest level of Payment Card Industry (“PCI”) Data Security Standard compliance at our store support center and stores. If we do not maintain the required level of PCI compliance, we could be subject to costly fines or additional fees from the card brands that we accept or lose our ability to accept those payment cards. Additionally, an increasing number of government and industry groups have established laws and standards for the protection of personal and health information.

### ***Risks Related to the Restaurant and Entertainment Industries***

***Our success depends upon our ability to recruit and retain qualified store management and operating personnel while also controlling our labor costs.***

We must continue to attract, retain, and motivate qualified management and operating personnel to maintain consistency in our service, hospitality, quality, and atmosphere of our stores, and to also support future growth. Adequate staffing of qualified personnel is a critical factor impacting our customers’ experience in our stores. Our ability to attract and retain qualified management and operating personnel has become more challenging due

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to an increasingly competitive job market and difficult pandemic-related operating demand. If we are unable to attract and retain a satisfactory number of qualified management and operating personnel, labor shortages could delay the planned openings of new stores or adversely impact the operation of our existing stores. Any such delays, material increases in employee turnover rates in existing stores or widespread employee dissatisfaction could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. Increased competition for qualified employees caused by a shortage in the labor pool exerts upward pressure on wages and benefits paid to attract and retain such personnel, resulting in higher labor costs, together with greater recruitment and training expense.

***Our revenues and operating results may fluctuate significantly due to various risks and unforeseen circumstances, including increases in costs, seasonality, weather, acts of violence or terrorism and other factors outside our control.***

Certain of the regions in which our stores are located have been, and may in the future be, subject to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes. Depending upon its magnitude, a natural disaster could severely damage our stores, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition. Our store support center, company-owned distribution center, game repair facility and our data center, as well as our backup data facility, are all located in the Dallas, Texas area. A natural or man-made disaster could significantly impact our ability to provide services and systems to our stores. We currently maintain property and business interruption insurance through the aggregate property policy for each of our stores.

Any act of violence at or threatened against our stores or the centers in which they are located, including active shooter situations and terrorist activities, may result in restricted access to our stores and/or store closures in the short-term and, in the long term, may cause our customers and team members to avoid visiting our stores. Any such situation could adversely impact cash flows and make it more difficult to fully staff our stores, which could materially adversely affect our business.

Our operating results may fluctuate significantly due to seasonal factors. Typically, our third quarter, which encompasses the back-to-school fall season, has historically had lower revenues compared to other quarters. Revenues associated with the spring and year-end holidays are typically higher. As a result, factors affecting peak seasons could have a disproportionate effect on our results. For example, the number of days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day and the days of the week on which Christmas and New Year's Eve fall affect the volume of business generated during the December holiday season and can affect our results for the full fiscal year. In addition, unfavorable weather conditions during the winter and spring seasons could have a significant adverse impact on our results. During fiscal 2020, results also fluctuated due to the timing and frequency of temporary closures and operating restrictions due to state and local guidelines imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have continued to see similar fluctuations with the impact of each variant of COVID-19, including the Delta and Omicron variants in fiscal 2021, and may continue to see impact in fiscal 2022 and future fiscal years due to new, yet unidentified variants.

***Our operations are susceptible to the changes in cost and availability of commodities and other products, which could negatively affect our operating results.***

Our profitability depends in part on our ability to anticipate and react to changes in commodity and other product costs. Various factors beyond our control, including adverse weather conditions, governmental regulation and monetary policy, product availability, recalls of food products, disruption of our supplier manufacturing and distribution processes due to public health crises or pandemics, and seasonality, may affect our commodity costs or cause a disruption in our supply chain. We have multiple short-term supply contracts with a limited number of suppliers. If any of these suppliers do not perform adequately or otherwise fail to distribute products or supplies to our stores, we may be unable to replace the suppliers in a short period of time on acceptable terms or at all, which could increase our costs, cause shortages of food and other items at our stores and cause us to remove certain items from our menu. Changes in the price or availability of commodities for which we do not have short-

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term supply contracts could have a material adverse effect on our profitability. Expiring contracts with our food suppliers could also result in unfavorable renewal terms and therefore increase costs associated with these suppliers or may necessitate negotiations with other suppliers. Other than short-term supply contracts for certain food items, we currently do not engage in futures contracts or other financial risk management strategies with respect to potential price fluctuations in the cost of food and other supplies. Also, the unplanned loss of a major distributor could adversely affect our business by disrupting our operations as we seek out and negotiate a new distribution contract. Further, a significant percentage of our WIN! merchandise inventory is directly or indirectly sourced outside the United States and changes in trade policy and tariffs could negatively impact our costs. If we pay higher prices for food or other product costs, our operating costs may increase, and, if we are unable to adjust our purchasing practices or pass any cost increases on to our customers, our operating results could be adversely affected.

***Our procurement of new games and amusement and entertainment offerings is contingent upon availability, and in some instances, our ability to obtain licensing rights.***

Our ability to continue to procure new games, amusement and entertainment offerings, and other entertainment-related equipment is important to our business strategy. The number of suppliers from which we can purchase games, amusement offerings and other entertainment-related equipment is limited. To the extent the number of suppliers declines, we could be subject to the risk of distribution delays, pricing pressure, lack of innovation and other associated risks. We may not be able to anticipate and react to changing amusement offerings cost by adjusting purchasing practices or game prices, and a failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our operating results. In addition, any decrease in availability of new amusement offerings that appeal to customers could lead to decreases in revenues as customers negatively react to a lack of new game options.

We have successfully developed several proprietary amusement offerings that are not available to operations outside the Company. Our ability to develop future offerings is dependent on, among other things, obtaining rights to compelling game content and developing new amusement offerings that are accepted by our customers. There is no guarantee that additional licensing rights will be obtained by us or that our customers will accept the future offerings that we develop. The result could be increased expenses without increased revenues putting downward pressure on our results of operations and financial performance.

***We may not be able to operate our stores or obtain/maintain licenses and permits necessary for such operation, in compliance with laws, regulations and other requirements, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition.***

We are subject to licensing and regulation by state and local authorities relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages, health, sanitation, safety, building and fire codes. Each store is required to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages on the premises from a state authority and, in certain locations, county and municipal authorities. Typically, licenses must be renewed annually and may be revoked or suspended for cause at any time. In some states, the loss of a license for cause with respect to one store may lead to the loss of licenses at all stores in that state and could make it more difficult to obtain additional licenses in that state. Alcoholic beverage control regulations relate to numerous aspects of the daily operations of each store, including minimum age of patrons and employees, hours of operation, advertising, wholesale purchasing, inventory control and handling and storage and dispensing of alcoholic beverages. We generally have not encountered any material difficulties or failures in obtaining and maintaining the required licenses, permits and approvals that could impact the continuing operations of an existing store, or delay or prevent the opening of a new store. Although we do not anticipate any material difficulties occurring in the future, the failure to receive or retain a liquor license, or any other required permit or license, in a particular location, or to continue to qualify for, or renew licenses, could have a material adverse effect on operations and our ability to obtain such a license or permit in other locations.

We are also subject to amusement licensing and regulation by the states, counties, and municipalities in which our stores are located, due to operating certain entertainment games and attractions, including skill-based

games that offer redemption prizes. These laws and regulations can vary significantly by state, county, and municipality and, in some jurisdictions, may require us to modify our business operations or alter the mix of redemption games and simulators we offer. Moreover, as more states and local communities implement legalized gambling, the laws and corresponding enabling regulations may also be applicable to our redemption games and regulators may create new licensing requirements, taxes or fees, or restrictions on the various types of redemption games we offer. Furthermore, other states, counties and municipalities may make changes to existing laws to further regulate legalized gaming and illegal gambling. Adoption of these laws, or adverse interpretation of existing laws, could require our existing stores in these jurisdictions to alter the mix of games, modify certain games, limit the number of tickets that may be won by a customer from a redemption game, change the mix of prizes that we may offer at our WIN! area or terminate the use of specific games, any of which could adversely affect our operations. If we fail to comply with such laws and regulations, we may be subject to various sanctions and/or penalties and fines or may be required to cease operations until we achieve compliance, which could have an adverse effect on our business and our financial results.

***We are subject to extensive laws and regulations and failure to comply with existing or new laws and regulations could adversely affect our operational efficiencies, cost structure and talent availability.***

During fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021, many of our stores were unable to operate or had limited operations due to guidelines and restrictions put in place by federal, state, and local governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also experienced an adverse impact on our customer frequency due to government masking and vaccination restrictions in certain jurisdictions.

We are also subject to various federal, state, and local laws and regulations that govern numerous aspects of our business, including the following:

- the Fair Labor Standards Act and other federal, state and local laws and regulations that govern employment practices and working conditions, including minimum wage rates, wage and hour practices, gratuities, overtime, labor practices, various family leave mandates, discrimination and harassment, immigration, workplace safety and other areas;
- the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar state laws that give civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities in the context of employment, public accommodations and other areas;
- the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 (“PPACA”) and uncertainties surrounding future changes to or replacement of our health insurance system;
- preparation, sale and labeling of food, including the federal regulations of the Food and Drug Administration, which oversees the safety of the entire food system, including inspection and mandatory food recalls, menu labeling and nutritional content, and additional requirements in certain states and local jurisdictions;
- environmental laws and regulations governing, among other things, discharges of pollutants into the air and water as well as the presence, handling, release and disposal of and exposure to hazardous substances; and
- other environmental matters, such as climate change, the reduction of greenhouse gases, water consumption and animal health and welfare.

Compliance with these laws and regulations and future new laws or changes in laws or regulations that impose additional requirements can be costly. Any failure or perceived failure to comply with these laws or regulations could result in, among other things, revocation of required license, administrative enforcement actions, fines, civil and criminal liability, and/or closure of stores. We could also be strictly liable, without regard to fault, for certain environmental conditions at properties we formerly owned or operated as well as at our current properties. Further, more stringent and varied requirements of local and state governmental bodies with respect to zoning, land use, and environmental factors could delay or prevent development of new stores in certain locations.



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If new immigration legislation is enacted, such laws may contain provisions that could increase our costs in recruiting, training and retaining employees. Also, although our hiring practices comply with the requirements of federal law in reviewing employees' citizenship or authority to work in the United States, increased enforcement efforts with respect to existing immigration laws by governmental authorities may disrupt a portion of our workforce or our operations at one or more of our stores, thereby negatively impacting our business.

We believe it is becoming increasingly likely that the United States federal government will significantly increase the federal minimum wage and tip credit wage (or eliminate the tip credit wage) and require significantly more mandated benefits than what is currently required under federal law. Should this happen, other jurisdictions that have historically mandated higher wages and greater benefits than what is required under federal law may seek to further increase wages and mandated benefits. In addition to increasing the overall wages paid to our minimum wage and tip credit wage earners, these increases create pressure to increase wages and other benefits paid to other team members who, in recognition of their tenure, performance, job responsibilities and other similar considerations, historically received a rate of pay exceeding the applicable minimum wage or minimum tip credit wage. Because we employ a large workforce, any wage increases and/or expansion of benefits mandates will have a particularly significant impact on our labor costs. Our vendors, contractors and business partners are similarly impacted by wage and benefit cost inflation, and many have or will increase their price for goods, construction, and services to offset their increasing labor costs. We may not be able to partially or fully offset cost increases resulting from changes in minimum wage rates by increasing menu or game prices, improving productivity, or through other adjustments, and our business, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected. Moreover, although none of our employees have been or are now represented by any unions, labor organizations may seek to represent certain of our employees in the future, and if they are successful, our payroll expenses and other labor costs may be increased in the course of collective bargaining, and/or there may be strikes or other work disruptions that may adversely affect our business.

### ***We face potential liability with our gift cards under the property laws of some states.***

Our gift cards, which may be used to purchase food, beverages, merchandise, and game play credits in our stores, may be considered stored value cards. Certain states include gift cards under their abandoned and unclaimed property laws and require companies to remit to the state cash in an amount equal to all or a designated portion of the unredeemed balance on the gift cards based on certain card attributes and the length of time that the cards are inactive. To date we have not remitted any amounts relating to unredeemed gift cards to states based upon our assessment of applicable laws.

The analysis of the potential application of the abandoned and unclaimed property laws to our gift cards is complex, involving an analysis of constitutional and statutory provisions and factual issues. In the event one or more states change their existing abandoned and unclaimed property laws or successfully challenge our position on the application of its abandoned and unclaimed property laws to our gift cards, our liabilities with respect to unredeemed gift cards may be materially higher than the amounts shown in our financial statements. If we are required to materially increase the estimated liability recorded in our financial statements with respect to unredeemed gift cards, our net income could be materially and adversely affected.

Our Power Cards may raise similar concerns to gift cards in terms of the applicability of state abandoned and unclaimed property laws. However, based on our analysis of abandoned and unclaimed property laws, we believe that our Power Cards are not stored value cards and such laws do not apply, although there can be no assurance that states will not take a different position, which may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***Litigation, including allegations of illegal, unfair, or inconsistent employment practices, may adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition.***

Our business may be adversely affected by the risk of legal proceedings brought by or on behalf of our customers, employees, suppliers, shareholders, government agencies or others through private actions, class actions, administrative proceedings, regulatory actions or other litigation. In recent years, a number of restaurant companies, including ours, have been subject to lawsuits, including class action lawsuits, alleging violations of federal and state law regarding workplace and employment matters, discrimination and similar matters, and a number of these lawsuits have resulted in the payment of substantial damages by the defendants. We have had from time to time and now have such lawsuits pending against us. In addition, from time to time, customers file complaints or lawsuits against us alleging that we are responsible for some illness or injury they suffered at or after a visit to a store. We are also subject to a variety of other claims in the ordinary course of business, including personal injury, lease, and contract claims.

We are also subject to “dram shop” statutes in certain states in which our stores are located. These statutes generally provide a person injured by an intoxicated person the right to recover damages from an establishment that wrongfully served alcoholic beverages to the intoxicated individual. Recent litigation against restaurant chains has resulted in significant judgments and settlements under dram shop statutes. Because these cases often seek punitive damages, which may not be covered by insurance, such litigation could have an adverse impact on our business, results of operations or financial condition. Regardless of whether any claims against us are valid or whether we are liable, claims may be expensive to defend and may divert time and money away from operations and hurt our financial performance. A judgment significantly in excess of our insurance coverage or not covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition. Also, adverse publicity resulting from these allegations may materially adversely affect our stores and us.

***Failure to adequately protect our intellectual property could harm our business.***

We regard our intellectual property as having significant value and being important to our marketing efforts. We use a combination of intellectual property rights, such as trademarks and trade secrets, to protect our brand and certain other proprietary processes and information material to our business. The success of our business strategy depends, in part, on our continued ability to use our intellectual property rights to increase brand awareness and further develop our branded products in both existing and new markets. If we fail to protect our intellectual property rights adequately, we may lose an important advantage in the markets in which we compete. If third parties misappropriate or infringe our intellectual property, the value of our image, brand and the goodwill associated therewith may be diminished, our brand may fail to achieve and maintain market recognition, and our competitive position may be harmed, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, including our revenues. Policing unauthorized use of our intellectual property is difficult, and we cannot be certain that the steps we have taken will prevent the violation or misappropriation of such intellectual property rights by others. To protect our intellectual property, we may become involved in litigation, which could result in substantial expenses, divert the attention of management, and adversely affect our revenue, financial condition and results of operations.

We cannot be certain that our products and services do not and will not infringe on the intellectual property rights of others. Any such claims, regardless of merit, could be time-consuming and expensive to litigate or settle, divert the attention of management, cause significant delays, materially disrupt the conduct of our business, and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. We could also be required to pay a substantial damage award, take a royalty-bearing license, discontinue the use of third-party products used within our operations and/or rebrand our products and services as a result of any such claims.

***Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure, Our Stock Ownership and Our Common Stock***

***The market price of our common stock is subject to volatility.***

The market price of our common stock may be significantly affected by a number of factors, including, but not limited to, actual or anticipated variations in our operating results or those of our competitors as compared to analyst expectations, changes in financial estimates by research analysts with respect to us or others in the restaurant and other entertainment industries, and announcement of significant transactions (including mergers or acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures or other strategic initiatives) by us or others in the restaurant and other entertainment industries. In addition, the equity markets have experienced price and volume fluctuations that affect the stock price of companies in ways that have been unrelated to an individual company's operating performance. The price for our common stock may continue to be volatile, based on factors specific to our company and industry, as well as factors related to the equity markets overall.

***Provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may discourage, delay or prevent a change of control of our company or changes in our management and, therefore, may depress the trading price of our stock.***

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws include certain provisions that could have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change of control of our Company or changes in our management, including:

- restrictions on the ability of our stockholders to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors;
- our ability to issue preferred stock with terms that the Board of Directors may determine, without stockholder approval, which could be used to significantly dilute the ownership of a hostile acquirer;
- the inability of our stockholders to call a special meeting of stockholders;
- requirement that special meetings of our stockholders be called only upon the request of a majority of our Board of Directors or our Chief Executive Officer;
- the absence of cumulative voting in the election of directors, which may limit the ability of minority stockholders to elect directors; and
- advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and nominations, which may discourage or deter a potential acquirer from soliciting proxies to elect a particular slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us.

These provisions in our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws may discourage, delay, or prevent a transaction involving a change of control of our Company that is in the best interest of our minority stockholders. Even in the absence of a takeover attempt, the existence of these provisions may adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock if they are viewed as discouraging future takeover attempts.

***Unsolicited takeover proposals, governance change proposals, proxy contests and certain proposals/actions by activist investors may create additional risks and uncertainties with respect to the Company's financial position, operations, strategies and management, and may adversely affect our ability to attract and retain key employees. Any perceived uncertainties may affect the market price and volatility of our securities.***

Public companies in the restaurant industry have been the target of unsolicited takeover proposals in the past. In the event that a third party, such as a competitor, private equity firm or activist investor makes an unsolicited takeover proposal or proposes to change our governance policies or board of directors or makes other proposals concerning the Company's ownership structure or operations, our review and consideration of such proposals may be a significant distraction for our management and employees and may require us to expend significant time and resources away from our primary operations. Such proposals may create uncertainty for our employees, additional risks and uncertainties with respect to the Company's financial position, operations, strategies, and management, and may adversely affect our ability to attract and retain key employees. Any perceived uncertainties as to our future direction also may adversely affect the market price and volatility of our securities.

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***Our fourth amended and restated certificate of incorporation, which was effective June 9, 2017, designates specific courts as the exclusive forum for certain litigation that may be initiated by our stockholders, which could limit our stockholders' ability to obtain a judicial forum of their choice for disputes with us.***

Our fourth amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that, unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will, to the fullest extent permitted by law, be the sole and exclusive forum for the following types of actions or proceedings under Delaware statutory or common law:

- any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf;
- any action asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any of our directors, officers, employees or stockholders to our company or our stockholders;
- any action asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of the DGCL or as to which the DGCL confers jurisdiction on the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware; or
- any action asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of our certificate of incorporation or bylaws (in each case, as they may be amended from time to time) or governed by the internal affairs doctrine.

The choice of forum provision in our certificate of incorporation does not waive our compliance with our obligations under the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. Moreover, the provision does not apply to suits brought to enforce a duty or liability created by the Exchange Act or by the Securities Act. Section 27 of the Exchange Act creates exclusive federal jurisdiction over all suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Exchange Act or the rules and regulations thereunder, and Section 22 of the Securities Act creates concurrent jurisdiction for federal and state courts with respect to suits brought to enforce a duty or liability created by the Securities Act or the rules and regulations thereunder. Accordingly, both state and federal courts have jurisdiction to entertain claims under the Securities Act.

***Our actual operating and financial results in any given period may differ from guidance we provide to the public, including our most recent public guidance.***

From time to time, in press releases, SEC filings, public conference calls and other contexts, we have provided guidance to the public regarding current business conditions and our expectations for our future financial results. We expect that we will provide guidance periodically in the future. Our guidance is based upon a number of assumptions, expectations, and estimates that are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond our control. In providing our guidance, we also make various assumptions with respect to our future business decisions, some of which will change. Our actual financial results, therefore, may vary from our guidance due to our inability to meet the assumptions upon which our guidance is based and the impact on our business of various risks and uncertainties described in these risk factors and in our public filings with the SEC. Variances between our actual results and our guidance may be material. To the extent that our actual financial results do not meet or exceed our guidance, the trading prices of our securities may be materially adversely affected.

### ***General Risk Factors***

***Changes in tax laws and resulting regulations could result in changes to our tax provisions and subject us to additional tax liabilities that could materially adversely affect our financial performance.***

We are subject to income, sales, use and other taxes in the United States and certain foreign jurisdictions. Changes in applicable U.S. or foreign tax laws and regulations, including the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("Tax Act"), or in their interpretation and application, including the possibility of retroactive effect and changes to state tax laws that may occur in response to the Tax Act, could affect our effective income tax rate. In addition, the final determination of any tax audits or related litigation could be materially different from our historical tax

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provisions and accruals. Changes in our tax expense or an increase in our tax liabilities, whether due to changes in applicable laws and regulation, the interpretation or application thereof, or a final determination of tax audits or litigation, could materially adversely affect our financial performance.

### ***Changes in interest rates could adversely impact the price of our shares or our ability to issue equity or incur debt for acquisitions or other purposes.***

In July 2017, the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates LIBOR, announced that it planned to phase out LIBOR by the end of 2021. On March 5, 2021, however, ICE Benchmark Administration, the administrator of LIBOR, announced its intention to cease the publication of 1-month, 3-month, and 6-month U.S. Dollar LIBOR after June 30, 2023. The Alternative Reference Rate Committee, a committee convened by the Federal Reserve that includes major market participants, has proposed an alternative rate to replace U.S. Dollar LIBOR: Secured Overnight Financing Rate (“SOFR”). Although our borrowing arrangements provide for alternative base rates, those alternative base rates historically would often have led to increased interest rates than those we paid based on LIBOR (which currently is subject to a floor of 1.00%) and may similarly be higher in the future. Therefore, when LIBOR ceases to exist, we will likely need to agree upon a replacement index with our lenders, and the interest rate thereunder will likely change. Additionally, credit agencies have, and in the future may, change their credit rating for us, among other things, based on the performance of our business, our capital strategies, or their overall view of our industry. There can be no assurance that any rating assigned to our currently outstanding public debt securities will remain in effect for any given period of time or that any such ratings will not be further lowered, suspended or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency, if in that agency’s judgment, circumstances so warrant, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes in interest rates, either positive or negative, may affect the yield requirements of investors who invest in our shares, and a rising interest rate environment could have an adverse impact on the price of our shares, our ability to issue equity or incur debt for acquisitions or other purposes.

### ***Failure of our internal control over financial reporting could harm our business and financial results.***

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is a process to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting is not intended to provide absolute assurance that we would prevent or detect a misstatement of our financial statements or fraud. Any failure to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting, including such a failure or inability to provide timely reporting about the effectiveness of their controls of our third-party service providers on whose controls we rely, could limit our ability to report our financial results accurately and timely or to detect and prevent fraud. A significant financial reporting failure or material weakness in internal control over financial reporting could result in substantial cost to remediate and could cause a loss of investor confidence and decline in the market price of our stock.

### **ITEM 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

Not applicable.

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### ITEM 2. Properties

We lease a 67,000 square foot office building in Coppell, Texas for use as our store support center. This lease expires during the second quarter of fiscal 2032, with options to renew through the second quarter of fiscal 2042. We also lease a 43,000 square foot warehouse facility in Dallas, Texas. Our former corporate office in Dallas, Texas, is no longer being used, and our plan is to transfer or eliminate inventory in our adjacent warehouse facility by the end of our third quarter of fiscal 2022, when the lease expires.

As of the end of fiscal 2021, we lease the building or site of all but three of our 144 operating stores, and we own land related to one future site. Our leases typically have initial terms ranging from ten to twenty years and most include options to extend the leases for one or more 5-year periods.

The table below shows the locations of our operating stores as of January 30, 2022:

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Alabama         | 2            |
| Alaska          | 1            |
| Arizona         | 4            |
| Arkansas        | 2            |
| California      | 17           |
| Colorado        | 2            |
| Connecticut     | 2            |
| Florida         | 9            |
| Georgia         | 4            |
| Hawaii          | 1            |
| Idaho           | 1            |
| Illinois        | 4            |
| Indiana         | 2            |
| Kansas          | 3            |
| Kentucky        | 2            |
| Louisiana       | 1            |
| Maryland        | 5            |
| Massachusetts   | 3            |
| Michigan        | 3            |
| Minnesota       | 2            |
| Missouri        | 1            |
| Nebraska        | 1            |
| Nevada          | 1            |
| New Hampshire   | 1            |
| New Jersey      | 3            |
| New Mexico      | 1            |
| New York        | 12           |
| North Carolina  | 4            |
| Ohio            | 6            |
| Oklahoma        | 2            |
| Oregon          | 1            |
| Pennsylvania    | 7            |
| Rhode Island    | 1            |
| South Carolina  | 3            |
| Tennessee       | 4            |
| Texas           | 13           |
| Utah            | 1            |
| Virginia        | 4            |
| Washington      | 2            |
| Wisconsin       | 3            |
| Puerto Rico     | 1            |
| Ontario, Canada | 2            |
| Total           | 144          |

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**ITEM 3. Legal Proceedings**

We are subject to certain legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of our business, including intellectual property disputes, miscellaneous premises liability, employment-related claims, and dram shop claims. In the opinion of management, based upon consultation with legal counsel, the amount of ultimate liability with respect to, or an adverse outcome in any such legal proceedings or claims will not materially affect our business, the consolidated results of our operations or our financial condition. Refer to Note 10 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for a summary of legal proceedings.

**ITEM 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable.

**PART II**

**ITEM 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

**Market Information and Dividend Policy**

The Company’s common stock trades under the symbol PLAY and is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market (“NASDAQ”).

The number of shareholders of record of the Company’s common stock as of March 18, 2022 was 413. This does not include persons whose stock is in nominee or “street name” accounts through brokers.

On December 6, 2021, our Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program with an authorization limit of \$100,000, expiring at the end of fiscal 2022. Future decisions to pay cash dividends or repurchase shares continue to be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will be dependent on our operating performance, financial condition, capital expenditure requirements and other factors that the Board of Directors considers relevant. There were no dividends declared in fiscal 2021 or fiscal 2020.

**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

There were no repurchases of our common stock during fiscal 2021 or fiscal 2020.

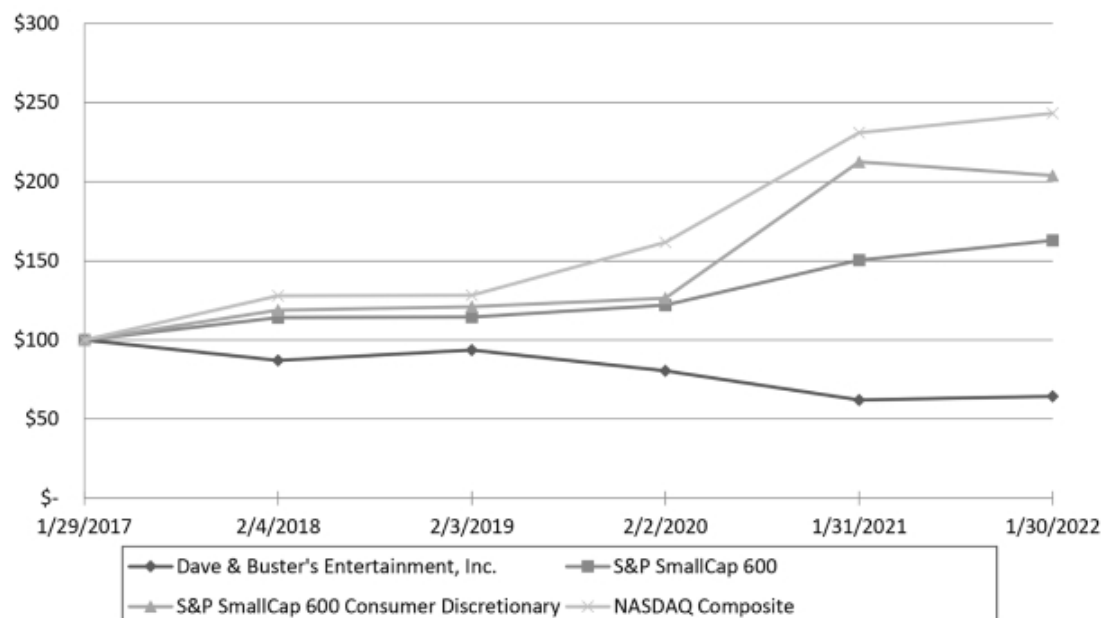


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**Performance Graph**

The following performance graph depicts the total returns to shareholders for the past five fiscal years from January 29, 2017, through January 30, 2022, relative to the performance of the NASDAQ Composite Index, Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”) SmallCap 600 Index and S&P SmallCap 600 Consumer Discretionary Index. All indices shown in the graph have been set at a base of 100 as of January 29, 2017 and assume an investment of \$100 on that date and the reinvestment of dividends paid since that date. The stock price performance shown in the graph is not necessarily indicative of future price performance.

**Comparison of 5-Year Cumulative Total Return  
Assumes Initial Investment of \$100**



|                                     | 1/29/2017 | 2/4/2018 | 2/3/2019 | 2/2/2020 | 1/31/2021 | 1/30/2022 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. | \$ 100.00 | \$ 87.04 | \$ 93.69 | \$ 80.58 | \$ 62.08  | \$ 64.43  |
| S&P 600 Small Cap                   | 100.00    | 114.08   | 114.48   | 122.07   | 150.36    | 162.87    |
| S&P 600 Consumer Discretionary      | 100.00    | 118.78   | 121.04   | 126.46   | 212.55    | 203.87    |
| NASDAQ Composite                    | 100.00    | 127.91   | 128.32   | 161.66   | 230.90    | 243.26    |

**ITEM 6. Reserved**

**ITEM 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read together with our audited consolidated financial statements and related notes included herein. Unless otherwise specified, the meanings of all defined terms in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” are consistent with the meanings of such terms as defined in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. All dollar amounts are presented in thousands, unless otherwise noted, except share and per share amounts.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

In March 2020, a novel strain of coronavirus (“COVID-19”) outbreak was declared a global pandemic and a National Public Health Emergency. Shortly after the national emergency declaration, state and local officials began placing restrictions on businesses, some of which allowed To-Go or curbside service only while others limited capacity in the dining room or Midway. By March 20, 2020, all our 137 operating stores were temporarily closed. On April 30, 2020, our first store re-opened to the public, and, by the end of fiscal 2020, 107 of our 140 stores were open and operating in limited capacity. The Company re-opened the remaining 33 stores that had been temporarily closed by August 1, 2021, the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2021. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, our two Canadian stores temporarily closed due to the resurgence, and shortly after the end of our fiscal year, these two stores re-opened with limited operations. By the end of March 2022, the Company expects all types of COVID-19 related restrictions to be lifted in all but three of our stores.

These developments have had a material adverse impact on the Company’s revenues, results of operations and cash flows for fiscal 2020, and during fiscal 2021, continued to have a significant impact on our business and results of operations. The ongoing effects of COVID-19 and its variants, including, but not limited to, consumer behavior, capacity restrictions, mask and vaccination mandates, wage inflation, our ability to continue to staff our stores and disruptions in the supply chain, will determine the impact to our operating results and financial position. The impact to our operations has been most notable during the periods of greatest accelerating COVID-19 case counts. We have incurred and will continue to incur additional costs to address government regulations and the safety of our team members and customers.

## Financial Highlights

- Revenues totaled \$1,304,056 compared with \$1,354,691 in fiscal 2019. Revenues were unfavorably impacted in the first half of fiscal 2021 by fewer operating weeks, and primarily in the fourth quarter, by consumer behavior after masking and vaccination requirements were implemented in a number of jurisdictions in which we operate as well as by the resurgence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Revenues totaled \$436,512 in fiscal 2020, which ended with 107 of our 140 stores open and operating in limited capacity.
- Overall comparable store sales decreased 10.6% compared with the same period in 2019. Comparable store sales increased 199.1% compared with the same period in 2020, which ended with 83 of our 113 comparable stores open and operating in limited capacity.
- Net income totaled \$108,640, or \$2.21 per diluted share, compared with net income of \$100,263, or \$2.94 per diluted share in the same period of 2019. Diluted shares increased from approximately 34.1 million at the end of fiscal 2019 to 49.3 million at the end of fiscal 2021, largely due to the sale of common stock during fiscal 2020 to obtain additional liquidity. In the same period of 2020, we recorded a net loss of \$206,974.
- Adjusted EBITDA totaled \$351,725, or 27.0% of revenues, compared with Adjusted EBITDA of \$308,222 or 22.8% of revenues in fiscal 2019. The increase in Adjusted EBITDA over fiscal 2019 is largely driven by the higher mix of amusements, reductions in hourly labor costs, and reduced discretionary marketing spend. We recorded an Adjusted EBITDA loss of \$81,273 in fiscal 2020.
- The Company ended the fiscal year with \$25,910 in cash and \$492,495 of liquidity available under our revolving credit facility.

## General

We are a leading owner and operator of high-volume venues in North America that combine dining and entertainment for both adults and families under the name “Dave & Buster’s”. Founded in 1982, the core of our concept is to offer our customers the opportunity to “Eat Drink Play and Watch” all in one location. Eat and Drink are offered through a full menu of entrées and appetizers and a full selection of non-alcoholic and

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alcoholic beverages. Our Play and Watch offerings provide an extensive assortment of entertainment attractions centered around playing games and watching live sports and other televised events. Our brand appeals to a relatively balanced mix of male and female adults, as well as families and teenagers. We believe we appeal to a diverse customer base by providing a highly customizable experience in a dynamic and fun setting.

Our stores average 40,000 square feet and range in size between 16,000 and 70,000 square feet. During the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period, to comply with various federal, state, and local guidelines and in response to changing customer levels, our stores operated with reduced hours of operation. Generally, our stores have returned to pre-pandemic operating hours and are open seven days a week, with normal hours of operation typically from 11:00 a.m. to midnight, with some stores open for extended hours on weekends.

### **Strategy**

Our strategy is built on four key components, including offering the latest entertainment to enjoy together, novel food & drink to bring people together, creating an aligned team and integrated experience, and driving customer engagement. For further information about our strategy, refer to “Item 1. Strategy”.

### **Key Measures of Our Performance**

We monitor and analyze several key performance measures to manage our business and evaluate financial and operating performance. These measures include:

**Comparable store sales.** Comparable store sales are a comparison of sales to the same period of prior years for the comparable store base. We historically define the comparable store base to include those stores open for a full 18 months before the beginning of the fiscal year and excluding stores permanently closed during the period. Due to the limitations of store operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the comparable store base for fiscal 2021 is defined as stores open for a full 18 months before the beginning of fiscal 2020 and excludes two stores that the Company elected not to reopen after they were closed in March 2020 due to local operating limitations and one store in Cary, North Carolina that was closed and relocated during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021. Our comparable store base consisted of 113, 114, and 99 stores as of the end of fiscal 2021, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

**New store openings.** Our ability to expand our business and reach new customers is influenced by the opening of additional stores in both new and existing markets. The success of our new stores is indicative of our brand appeal and the efficacy of our site selection and operating models. During fiscal 2021, we opened five new stores, including our relocated Cary, North Carolina store. We currently plan to open eight stores in fiscal 2022.

### **Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

In addition to the results provided in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”), we provide non-GAAP measures which present operating results on an adjusted basis. These are supplemental measures of performance that are not required by or presented in accordance with GAAP and include Adjusted EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA Margin, Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization and Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization Margin (defined below). These non-GAAP measures do not represent and should not be considered as an alternative to net income or cash flows from operations, as determined in accordance with GAAP, and our calculations thereof may not be comparable to similarly entitled measures reported by other companies and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for measures of performance prepared in accordance with GAAP. Although we use these non-GAAP measures to assess the operating performance of our business, they have significant limitations as an analytical tool because they exclude certain material costs. For example, Adjusted EBITDA does not take into account a number of significant items, including our interest expense and depreciation and amortization expense. In addition, Adjusted EBITDA excludes pre-opening and other costs which may be important in analyzing our GAAP results. Because Adjusted EBITDA does not account for these expenses, its utility as a measure of our operating performance has material limitations. Our calculations of Adjusted EBITDA adjust for these amounts because they vary from period to period and do not directly relate to the ongoing operations of the currently underlying business of our

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stores and therefore complicate comparison of the underlying business between periods. Nevertheless, because of the limitations described above, management does not view Adjusted EBITDA or Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization in isolation and also uses other measures, such as revenues, gross margin, operating income and net income to measure operating performance.

**Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA Margin.** We define “Adjusted EBITDA” as net income (loss), plus interest expense, net, loss on debt extinguishment or refinancing, provision (benefit) for income taxes, depreciation and amortization expense, loss on asset disposal, impairment of long-lived assets, share-based compensation, pre-opening costs, currency transaction (gains) losses and other costs. “Adjusted EBITDA Margin” is defined as Adjusted EBITDA divided by total revenues.

Adjusted EBITDA is presented because we believe that it provides useful information to investors and analysts regarding our operating performance. By reporting Adjusted EBITDA, we provide a basis for comparison of our business operations between current, past and future periods by excluding items that we do not believe are indicative of our core operating performance.

**Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization and Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization Margin.** We define “Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization” as operating income (loss), plus depreciation and amortization expense, general and administrative expenses and pre-opening costs. “Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization Margin” is defined as Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization divided by total revenues. Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization Margin allows us to evaluate operating performance of each store across stores of varying size and volume.

We believe that Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization is another useful measure in evaluating our operating performance because it removes the impact of general and administrative expenses, which are not incurred at the store level, and the costs of opening new stores, which are non-recurring at the store level, and thereby enables the comparability of the operating performance of our stores for the periods presented. We also believe that Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization is a useful measure in evaluating our operating performance within the entertainment and dining industry because it permits the evaluation of store-level productivity, efficiency, and performance, and we use Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization as a means of evaluating store financial performance compared with our competitors. However, because this measure excludes significant items such as general and administrative expenses and pre-opening costs, as well as our interest expense, net and depreciation and amortization expense, which are important in evaluating our consolidated financial performance from period to period, the value of this measure is limited as a measure of our consolidated financial performance.

### **Presentation of Operating Results**

The Company’s fiscal year consists of 52 or 53 weeks ending on the Sunday after the Saturday closest to January 31. Each quarterly period has 13 weeks, except in a 53-week year when the fourth quarter has 14 weeks. Fiscal 2021, 2020 and 2019, which ended on January 30, 2022, January 31, 2021, and February 2, 2020, respectively, each contained 52 weeks. All dollar amounts are presented in thousands, unless otherwise noted, except share and per share amounts.

### **Store-Level Variability, Quarterly Fluctuations, Seasonality and Inflation**

We have historically operated stores varying in size and have experienced significant variability among stores in volumes, operating results and net investment costs.

Our new stores typically open with sales volumes in excess of their expected long-term run-rate levels, which we refer to as a “honeymoon” effect. We traditionally expect our new store sales volumes in year two to be 10% to 20% lower than our year one targets, and to grow in line with the rest of our comparable store base

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thereafter. As a result of the substantial revenues associated with each new store, the number and timing of new store openings will result in significant fluctuations in quarterly results.

While fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021 were unusual years with the impact of COVID-19, historically in the first year of operation, new store operating margins (excluding pre-opening expenses) typically benefit from honeymoon sales leverage on occupancy, management labor and other fixed costs. This benefit is partially offset by normal inefficiencies in hourly labor and other costs associated with establishing a new store. In year two, operating margins may decline due to the loss of honeymoon sales leverage on fixed costs which is partially offset by improvements in store operating efficiency. Furthermore, rents in our new stores are typically higher than our comparable store base.

Our operating results historically have fluctuated due to seasonal factors. Typically, we have higher revenues associated with the spring and year-end holidays, which will continue to be susceptible to the impact of severe or unseasonably mild weather on customer traffic and sales during that period. Our third quarter, which encompasses the back-to-school fall season, has historically had lower revenues as compared to other quarters. During fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021, results also fluctuated due to the timing and frequency of temporary closures and operating restrictions due to state and local guidelines imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We expect that economic and environmental conditions and changes in regulatory legislation will continue to exert pressure on both supplier pricing and consumer spending related to entertainment and dining alternatives. Although there is no assurance that our cost of products will remain stable or that federal, state, or local minimum wage rates will not increase beyond amounts currently legislated, the effects of any supplier price increase or wage rate increases might be partially offset by selected menu price increases if competitively appropriate. In addition, how quickly and to what extent, normal economic and operating conditions can resume cannot be predicted, and the resumption of normal business operations may be delayed or constrained by lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on us or our suppliers, third-party service providers, and/or customers.

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**Fiscal 2021 Compared to Fiscal 2020**

**Results of operations.** The following table sets forth selected data, in thousands of dollars and as a percentage of total revenues (unless otherwise noted) for the periods indicated. All information is derived from the accompanying consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss).

|  | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>January 30, 2022</b> |              | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>January 31, 2021</b> |                |
|--|---|--------------|---|----------------|
| Food and beverage revenues   | \$ 436,637                                    | 33.5%        | \$ 159,501                                    | 36.5%          |
| Amusement and other revenues   | 867,419                                       | 66.5         | 277,011                                       | 63.5           |
| <b>Total revenues</b>  | <b>1,304,056</b>                              | <b>100.0</b> | <b>436,512</b>                                | <b>100.0</b>   |
| Cost of food and beverage (as a percent of food and beverage revenues)     | 119,123                                       | 27.3         | 45,207  | 28.3           |
| Cost of amusement and other (as a percent of amusement and other revenues) | 85,848  | 9.9          | 29,698  | 10.7           |
| Total cost of products   | 204,971                                       | 15.7         | 74,905  | 17.2           |
| Operating payroll and benefits   | 287,263                                       | 22.0         | 117,475                                       | 26.9           |
| Other store operating expenses   | 402,661                                       | 30.9         | 299,464                                       | 68.6           |
| General and administrative expenses  | 75,501  | 5.8          | 47,215  | 10.8           |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                                      | 138,329                                       | 10.6         | 138,789                                       | 31.8           |
| Pre-opening costs  | 8,150   | 0.6          | 11,276  | 2.6            |
| <b>Total operating costs</b>   | <b>1,116,875</b>                              | <b>85.6</b>  | <b>689,124</b>                                | <b>157.9</b>   |
| <b>Operating income (loss)</b>   | <b>187,181</b>                                | <b>14.4</b>  | <b>(252,612)</b>                              | <b>(57.9)</b>  |
| Interest expense, net  | 53,910  | 4.2          | 36,890  | 8.4            |
| Loss on debt extinguishment / refinancing                                  | 5,617   | 0.4          | 904   | 0.2            |
| Income (loss) before provision (benefit) for income taxes                  | 127,654                                       | 9.8          | (290,406)                                     | (66.5)         |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes                                       | 19,014  | 1.5          | (83,432)                                      | (19.1)         |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b>   | <b>\$ 108,640</b>                             | <b>8.3%</b>  | <b>\$(206,974)</b>                            | <b>(47.4)%</b> |
| Change in comparable store sales   |   | 199.1%       |   | (70.2)%        |
| Company-owned stores at end of period <sup>(1)</sup>                       |   | 144          |   | 140            |
| Comparable stores at end of period <sup>(1)</sup>                          |   | 113          |   | 114            |

<sup>(1)</sup> As of the end of fiscal 2021, all 144 of our stores were open except for our two comparable stores in Canada. Our total and comparable store counts as of the end of fiscal 2021 exclude a store in Cary, North Carolina, which was closed on January 2, 2022, and relocated prior to the end of our fiscal year. As of the end of fiscal 2020, 107 of our 140 stores were open and 84 of our 114 comparable stores were open. Our total and comparable store counts as of the end of fiscal 2020 exclude a store in Chicago, Illinois and a store in Houston, Texas which were at or near the end of their respective lease terms which the Company decided not to re-open. We opened five new stores during fiscal 2021, including our relocated Cary, North Carolina store, and we opened six new stores during fiscal 2020.

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### *Reconciliations of Non-GAAP Financial Measures*

#### *Adjusted EBITDA*

The following table reconciles Net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA for the periods indicated:

|   | Fiscal Year Ended<br>January 30, 2022 |       | Fiscal Year Ended<br>January 31, 2021 |        |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Net income (loss)   | \$108,640                             | 8.3%  | \$(206,974)                           | -47.4% |
| Interest expense, net                                       | 53,910                                |       | 36,890                                |        |
| Loss on debt extinguishment / refinancing                   | 5,617                                 |       | 904                                   |        |
| Provision (benefit) for income tax                          | 19,014                                |       | (83,432)                              |        |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                       | 138,329                               |       | 138,789                               |        |
| EBITDA  | 325,510                               | 25.0% | (113,823)                             | -26.1% |
| Loss on asset disposal                                      | 1,392                                 |       | 577                                   |        |
| Impairment of long-lived assets and lease termination costs | 912                                   |       | 13,727                                |        |
| Share-based compensation                                    | 12,472                                |       | 6,985                                 |        |
| Pre-opening costs   | 8,150                                 |       | 11,276                                |        |
| Other costs <sup>(1)</sup>                                  | 3,289                                 |       | (15)                                  |        |
| Adjusted EBITDA   | <u>\$351,725</u>                      | 27.0% | <u>\$(81,273)</u>                     | -18.6% |

<sup>(1)</sup> Primarily represents costs related to currency transaction (gains) or losses. The third quarter of fiscal 2021 includes a \$3,230 severance obligation to the Company's former Chief Executive Officer, who terminated his service in this position effective September 30, 2021.

#### *Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization*

The following table reconciles Operating income (loss) to Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization for the periods indicated:

|   | Fiscal Year Ended<br>January 30, 2022 |       | Fiscal Year Ended<br>January 31, 2021 |        |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Operating income (loss)                                     | \$187,181                             | 14.4% | \$(252,612)                           | -57.9% |
| General and administrative expenses                         | 75,501                                |       | 47,215                                |        |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                       | 138,329                               |       | 138,789                               |        |
| Pre-opening costs   | 8,150                                 |       | 11,276                                |        |
| Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization | <u>\$409,161</u>                      | 31.4% | <u>\$(55,332)</u>                     | -12.7% |

#### *Capital Additions*

The following table reflects accrual-based capital additions. Capital additions do not include any reductions for accrual-based tenant improvement allowances or proceeds from sale-leaseback transactions (collectively, "Payments from landlords").

|                                     | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>January 30,<br>2022 | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>January 31,<br>2021 |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| New store and operating initiatives | \$ 58,879                                   | \$ 51,572                                   |
| Games                               | 14,523                                      | 8,795                                       |
| Maintenance capital                 | 30,602                                      | 3,266                                       |
| Total capital additions             | <u>\$ 104,004</u>                           | <u>\$ 63,633</u>                            |
| Payments from landlords             | \$ 16,073                                   | \$ 12,923                                   |

**Results of Operations****Revenues**

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, which was declared a global pandemic and a National Public Health Emergency in the United States in March 2020, the Company temporarily closed all our stores. On April 30, 2020, our first store re-opened to the public, and by the end of fiscal 2020, 107 of our 140 stores were open and operating in limited capacity. Of these 107 open stores, 83 were comparable stores. By the end of our second quarter of fiscal 2021, all the Company's stores were open and operating, the majority of which having no operating restrictions. However, several of the local jurisdictions in which we operate instituted masking and vaccination restrictions. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, our two Canadian stores temporarily closed due to the resurgence, and shortly after the end of our fiscal year, re-opened in limited capacity.

Selected revenue and store data for the periods indicated are as follows:

|                                     | Fiscal Year Ended |                  |            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
|                                     | January 30, 2022  | January 31, 2021 | Change     |
| Total revenues                      | \$ 1,304,056      | \$ 436,512       | \$867,544  |
| Total store operating weeks         | 7,161             | 3,922            | 3,239      |
| Comparable store revenues           | \$ 1,066,085      | \$ 356,473       | \$709,612  |
| Comparable store operating weeks    | 5,666             | 3,134            | 2,532      |
| Noncomparable store revenues        | \$ 250,297        | \$ 83,194        | \$167,103  |
| Noncomparable store operating weeks | 1,495             | 788              | 707        |
| Other revenues and deferrals        | \$ (12,326)       | \$ (3,155)       | \$ (9,171) |

Total revenues increased \$867,544, or 198.7%, to \$1,304,056 in fiscal 2021 compared to total revenues of \$436,512 in fiscal 2020. The increase in revenue is attributable primarily to more store operating weeks in fiscal 2021 compared to the prior year due to temporary store closures during fiscal 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The table below represents our revenue mix for the fiscal years indicated. The shift in mix from food and beverage sales to amusement sales of 300 basis points is due, in part, to reduced special events and less discounting of amusements, offset somewhat by food price increases effective midway through the third quarter of fiscal 2021.

|                 | Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                 | January 30, 2022  | January 31, 2021  |
| Food sales      | 22.7%             | 24.1%             |
| Beverage sales  | 10.8%             | 12.4%             |
| Amusement sales | 66.1%             | 63.1%             |
| Other           | 0.4%              | 0.4%              |

Comparable store revenue increased \$709,612 or 199.1%, in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020, due primarily to an 80.8% increase in comparable store operating weeks. Comparable store sales in fiscal 2021 were approximately 88.8% of the levels achieved pre-pandemic during fiscal 2019. Our individual comparable stores generally experienced gradual increases in weekly sales performance as operating weeks increased. Individual store performance after re-opening was also impacted by changes in local operating restrictions and consumer reactions to changes in local COVID-19 infection rates.

Food sales at comparable stores increased by \$155,171, or 180.5%, to \$241,127 in fiscal 2021 from \$85,956 in fiscal 2020. Beverage sales at comparable stores increased by \$72,108, or 160.6%, to \$117,006 in fiscal 2021 from \$44,898 in fiscal 2020. Comparable store amusement and other revenues in fiscal 2021 increased by \$482,333, or 213.8%, to \$707,952 from \$225,619 in fiscal 2020.

Non-comparable store revenue increased \$167,103 in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020, for the same reasons noted above, including 707 more store operating weeks.



***Cost of products***

The total cost of products was \$204,971 for fiscal 2021 and \$74,905 for fiscal 2020. The total cost of products as a percentage of total revenues decreased 150 basis points to 15.7% for fiscal 2021 compared to 17.2% for fiscal 2020.

Cost of food and beverage products increased to \$119,123 compared to \$45,207 for fiscal 2020. Cost of food and beverage products, as a percentage of food and beverage revenues, decreased 100 basis points to 27.3% for fiscal 2021 from 28.3% for fiscal 2020. The impact of year-over-year cost increases in food products, primarily poultry, were offset by lower closure-related spoilage costs and food price increases effective midway through the third quarter of fiscal 2021.

Cost of amusement and other increased to \$85,848 in fiscal 2021 compared to \$29,698 in fiscal 2020. The costs of amusement and other, as a percentage of amusement and other revenues, decreased 80 basis points to 9.9% for fiscal 2021 from 10.7% in fiscal 2020. This decrease was driven primarily by lower ticket redemption activity as a percent of tickets issued during the first half of fiscal 2021, partially offset by higher freight costs.

***Operating payroll and benefits***

Total operating payroll and benefits increased by \$169,788, or 144.5%, to \$287,263 in fiscal 2021 compared to \$117,475 in fiscal 2020. Nearly all our store workforce, except a small team of essential personnel, were furloughed in mid-March 2020. Hourly team members began to return as stores re-opened at reduced staffing levels. The total cost of operating payroll and benefits as a percentage of total revenues was 22.0% in fiscal 2021 compared to 26.9% in 2020. This decrease is primarily due to favorable leveraging on management labor and benefits and lower labor hours due to labor efficiency initiatives and hourly labor staffing shortages, partially offset by increases in the hourly labor costs and higher incentive compensation, including referral and retention incentives implemented during the second quarter of fiscal 2021.

***Other store operating expenses***

Other store operating expenses increased by \$103,197, or 34.5%, to \$402,661 in fiscal 2021 compared to \$299,464 in fiscal 2020. The increase is primarily due to the impact of increased store weeks during fiscal 2021 on costs such as utilities, supplies, maintenance, and other services and an approximate \$11,000 increase in marketing spend. These increases were offset somewhat by a \$13,727 charge for impairment of long-lived assets and lease termination costs incurred during fiscal 2020. Other store operating expense as a percentage of total revenues decreased to 30.9% in fiscal 2021 compared to 68.6% in fiscal 2020. This decrease was due primarily to favorable sales leveraging on occupancy costs and utilities and the absence of any impairment charges in fiscal 2021.

***General and administrative expenses***

General and administrative expenses increased by \$28,286, or 59.9%, to \$75,501 in fiscal 2021 compared to \$47,215 in fiscal 2020. The increase in general and administrative expenses was driven primarily by higher incentive compensation, salaries and benefits, professional fees, board fees, hiring cost, travel, and share-based compensation. Fiscal 2021 also includes a \$3,230 severance obligation to the Company's former Chief Executive Officer, who terminated his service in this position effective September 30, 2021, and a \$912 impairment charge related to the relocation of our store support center and abandonment of our former corporate office lease. Effective near the end of March 2020, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our corporate team members were furloughed, with reduced pay and benefits for the remaining team members for a twelve-week period, and board fees were temporarily suspended. Share-based compensation was also lower during that same time due to changes in performance stock unit expense.

***Depreciation and amortization expense***

Depreciation and amortization expense was relatively flat at \$138,329 in fiscal 2021 compared to \$138,789 in fiscal 2020. Increased depreciation due to our 2021 and 2020 capital expenditures for new stores, operating initiatives, games, and maintenance capital, was offset by other assets reaching the end of their depreciable lives.

***Pre-opening costs***

Pre-opening costs decreased by \$3,126 to \$8,150 in fiscal 2021 compared to \$11,276 in fiscal 2020 due to delays in construction and a decrease in the number of planned new store openings, as a result of impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which began during the first quarter of fiscal 2020. Specifically, while construction was put on hold or delayed, pre-opening rent continued to be recorded for stores under construction.

***Interest expense, net and Loss on debt extinguishment / refinancing***

Interest expense, net increased by \$17,020 to \$53,910 in fiscal 2021 compared to \$36,890 in fiscal 2020 due primarily to an increase in the weighted average effective interest rate, offset partially by a decrease in average outstanding debt. In connection with the early extinguishment of a portion of the Notes, the Company recorded a loss on extinguishment of \$5,617 during fiscal 2021. In connection with the debt refinancing in fiscal 2020, the Company recorded a charge of \$904. These events are explained further in Note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

***Provision (benefit) for income taxes***

The effective tax rate for fiscal 2021 was 14.9%, compared to a benefit of 28.7% for fiscal 2020. The current year tax provision includes higher excess tax benefits associated with share-based compensation and higher tax credits while the prior year was a tax benefit primarily due to the impact of the pre-tax loss and the impact of the tax provisions within the CARES Act.

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**Fiscal 2020 Compared to Fiscal 2019**

**Results of operations.** The following table sets forth selected data, in thousands of dollars and as a percentage of total revenues (unless otherwise noted) for the periods indicated. All information is derived from the accompanying consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss).

|  | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>January 31, 2021</b> |                | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>February 2, 2020</b> |             |
|--|---|----------------|---|-------------|
| Food and beverage revenues   | \$ 159,501                                    | 36.5%          | \$ 563,576                                    | 41.6%       |
| Amusement and other revenues   | 277,011                                       | 63.5           | 791,115                                       | 58.4        |
| Total revenues   | 436,512                                       | 100.0          | 1,354,691                                     | 100.0       |
| Cost of food and beverage (as a percent of food and beverage revenues)     | 45,207  | 28.3           | 148,196                                       | 26.3        |
| Cost of amusement and other (as a percent of amusement and other revenues) | 29,698  | 10.7           | 85,115  | 10.8        |
| Total cost of products   | 74,905  | 17.2           | 233,311                                       | 17.2        |
| Operating payroll and benefits   | 117,475                                       | 26.9           | 322,970                                       | 23.8        |
| Other store operating expenses   | 299,464                                       | 68.6           | 429,431                                       | 31.8        |
| General and administrative expenses  | 47,215  | 10.8           | 69,469  | 5.1         |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                                      | 138,789                                       | 31.8           | 132,460                                       | 9.8         |
| Pre-opening costs  | 11,276  | 2.6            | 18,971  | 1.4         |
| Total operating costs  | 689,124                                       | 157.9          | 1,206,612                                     | 89.1        |
| Operating income (loss)  | (252,612)                                     | (57.9)         | 148,079                                       | 10.9        |
| Interest expense, net  | 36,890  | 8.4            | 20,937  | 1.5         |
| Loss on debt refinance   | 904   | 0.2            | —   | —           |
| Income (loss) before provision (benefit) for income taxes                  | (290,406)                                     | (66.5)         | 127,142                                       | 9.4         |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes                                       | (83,432)                                      | (19.1)         | 26,879  | 2.0         |
| Net income (loss)  | <u>\$ (206,974)</u>                           | <u>(47.4)%</u> | <u>\$ 100,263</u>                             | <u>7.4%</u> |
| Change in comparable store sales   |   | (70.2)%        |   | (2.6)%      |
| Company-owned stores at end of period <sup>(1)</sup>                       |   | 140            |   | 136         |
| Comparable stores at end of period <sup>(1)</sup>                          |   | 114            |   | 99          |

<sup>(1)</sup> As of January 31, 2021, 107 of our 140 stores were open and 84 of our 114 comparable stores were open. Our total and comparable store counts as of the end of fiscal 2020 exclude a store in Chicago, Illinois and a store in Houston, Texas which are at or near the end of their respective lease terms which the Company has decided not to re-open. Our store in Duluth (Atlanta), Georgia permanently closed on March 3, 2019, as we did not exercise the renewal option and is excluded from fiscal 2019 store counts and comparable store sales. We opened six new stores during fiscal 2020 and 16 new stores during fiscal 2019.

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### *Reconciliations of Non-GAAP Financial Measures*

#### *Adjusted EBITDA*

The following table reconciles Net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA for the periods indicated:

|   | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>January 31, 2021</b> |        | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>February 2, 2020</b> |       |
|---|---|--------|---|-------|
| Net income (loss)   | \$ (206,974)                                  | -47.4% | \$ 100,263                                    | 7.4%  |
| Interest expense, net                                       | 36,890  |        | 20,937  |       |
| Loss on debt refinance                                      | 904   |        | —   |       |
| Provision (benefit) for income tax                          | (83,432)                                      |        | 26,879  |       |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                       | 138,789                                       |        | 132,460                                       |       |
| EBITDA  | (113,823)                                     | -26.1% | 280,539                                       | 20.7% |
| Loss on asset disposal                                      | 577   |        | 1,813   |       |
| Impairment of long-lived assets and lease termination costs | 13,727  |        | —   |       |
| Share-based compensation                                    | 6,985   |        | 6,857   |       |
| Pre-opening costs   | 11,276  |        | 18,971  |       |
| Other costs <sup>(1)</sup>                                  | (15)  |        | 42  |       |
| Adjusted EBITDA   | <u>\$ (81,273)</u>                            | -18.6% | <u>\$ 308,222</u>                             | 22.8% |

(1) Primarily represents costs related to currency transaction (gains) or losses.

#### *Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization*

The following table reconciles Operating income (loss) to Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization for the periods indicated:

|   | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>January 31, 2021</b> |        | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>February 2, 2020</b> |       |
|---|---|--------|---|-------|
| Operating income (loss)                                     | \$ (252,612)                                  | -57.9% | \$ 148,079                                    | 10.9% |
| General and administrative expenses                         | 47,215  |        | 69,469  |       |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                       | 138,789                                       |        | 132,460                                       |       |
| Pre-opening costs   | 11,276  |        | 18,971  |       |
| Store Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization | <u>\$ (55,332)</u>                            | -12.7% | <u>\$ 368,979</u>                             | 27.2% |

#### *Capital Additions*

The following table reflects accrual-based capital additions. Capital additions do not include any reductions for Payments from landlords.

|                                     | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>January 31, 2021</b> | <b>Fiscal Year Ended<br/>February 3, 2020</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| New store and operating initiatives | \$ 51,572                                     | \$ 183,897                                    |
| Games                               | 8,795   | 19,749  |
| Maintenance capital                 | 3,266   | 27,351  |
| Total capital additions             | <u>\$ 63,633</u>                              | <u>\$ 230,997</u>                             |
| Payments from landlords             | \$ 12,923                                     | \$ 33,544                                     |

**Results of Operations****Revenues**

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, which was declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, and a National Public Health Emergency in the United States on March 13, 2020, the Company temporarily closed of all our 137 stores by March 20, 2020 (including our one new store opening March 16, 2020). On April 30, 2020, our first store re-opened to the public, as state and local guidelines began to allow dining rooms and arcades to open at limited capacity and/or limited hours of operation. By the end of fiscal 2020, we had progressively re-opened an additional 101 stores with limited operations. Many of these stores that were re-opened in limited capacity were required to temporarily close again in areas more severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly during the fourth quarter holiday season. The Company also opened five new stores in the second half of the fiscal year, all of which commenced construction prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of January 31, 2021, 107 of our 140 stores were open and operating in limited capacity. Of these 107 open stores, 84 are comparable stores.

Selected revenue and store data for the periods indicated are as follows:

|                                     | <b>Fiscal year ended<br/>January 31, 2021</b> | <b>Fiscal year ended<br/>February 2, 2020</b> | <b>Change</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| Total revenues                      | \$ 436,512                                    | \$ 1,354,691                                  | \$(918,179)   |
| Total store operating weeks         | 3,922   | 6,769   | (2,847)       |
| Comparable store revenues           | \$ 358,395                                    | \$ 1,200,983                                  | \$(842,588)   |
| Comparable store operating weeks    | 3,157   | 5,928   | (2,771)       |
| Noncomparable store revenues        | \$ 81,272                                     | 162,467                                       | \$ (81,195)   |
| Noncomparable store operating weeks | 765   | 841   | (76)          |
| Other revenues                      | \$ (3,155)                                    | \$ (8,759)                                    | \$ 5,604      |

Total revenues decreased \$918,179, or 67.8%, to \$436,512 in fiscal 2020 compared to total revenues of \$1,354,691 in fiscal 2019. The decline in revenue is attributable to fewer store operating weeks in fiscal 2020 as a result of temporary store closures, lower customer volumes due to limited food and beverage and amusement operations and the canceling or postponement of special events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the year ended January 31, 2021, we derived 24.1% of our total revenue from food sales, 12.4% from beverage sales, 63.1% from amusement sales and 0.4% from other sources. For the year ended February 2, 2020 we derived 28.3% of our total revenue from food sales, 13.3% from beverage sales, 57.5% from amusement sales and 0.9% from other sources.

Comparable store revenue decreased \$842,588, or 70.2%, in fiscal 2020 compared to fiscal 2019, due primarily to a 46.7% reduction in comparable store operating weeks and lower customer volumes as stores re-opened with limited operations. As of March 20, 2020, all the Company's 114 comparable stores were closed due to operating restrictions put in place by local jurisdictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning April 30, 2020, we began re-opening our stores based on changes in operating restrictions in the various jurisdictions. As of January 31, 2021, 84 of our comparable stores had re-opened under limited operating conditions. Our individual comparable stores generally experienced gradual increases in weekly sales performance as operating weeks increased. Individual store performance after re-opening was impacted by changes in local operating restrictions and consumer reactions to changes in local COVID-19 infection rates.

Comparable walk-in revenues, which accounted for 97.0% of comparable store revenue for fiscal 2020, decreased 67.8% compared to the similar period in fiscal 2019. Comparable store special events revenues, which accounted for 3.0% of comparable store revenue for fiscal 2020, decreased 91.1% compared to the similar period in fiscal 2019 as events were canceled or postponed due to local restrictions on group gathering size and operating restrictions on our business.

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Food sales at comparable stores decreased by \$252,827, or 74.5%, to \$86,382 in fiscal 2020 from \$339,209 in fiscal 2019. Beverage sales at comparable stores decreased by \$113,917, or 71.6%, to \$45,104 in fiscal 2020 from \$159,021 in fiscal 2019. Comparable store amusement and other revenues in fiscal 2020 decreased by \$475,844, or 67.7%, to \$226,909 from \$702,753 in fiscal 2019.

Non-comparable store revenue decreased \$81,195 in fiscal 2020 compared to fiscal 2019. During the first four-week period of fiscal 2020, non-comparable stores contributed an additional \$9,668 of revenue and 54 additional operating weeks over the same period of fiscal 2019. During the remainder of the fifty-two weeks ended January 31, 2021, non-comparable store revenue decreased \$90,863 for the same reasons noted above, including 130 fewer store operating weeks.

### ***Cost of products***

The total cost of products was \$74,905 for fiscal 2020 and \$233,311 for fiscal 2019. The total cost of products as a percentage of total revenues was 17.2% for both fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019. For the year ended January 31, 2021, the cost of food products was 29.9% of food revenue, the cost of beverage products was 25.3% of beverage revenue, and the amusement and other cost of products was 10.7% of amusement and other revenues. For the year ended February 2, 2020, the cost of food products was 27.2% of food revenue, the cost of beverage products was 24.3% of beverage revenue, and the amusement and other cost of products was 10.8% of amusement and other revenues.

Cost of food and beverage products decreased to \$45,207 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$148,196 for fiscal 2019. Cost of food and beverage products, as a percentage of food and beverage revenues, increased 200 basis points to 28.3% for fiscal 2020 from 26.3% for fiscal 2019. Cost of food and beverage products during fiscal 2020 was negatively impacted by food and beverage spoilage of approximately \$3,567 associated with store closures and the upcoming new menu rollout, partially offset by cost reductions resulting from vendor payment negotiations.

Cost of amusement and other decreased to \$29,698 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$85,115 in fiscal 2019. The costs of amusement and other, as a percentage of amusement and other revenues, decreased 10 basis points to 10.7% for fiscal 2020 from 10.8% for fiscal 2019. This decrease was driven by lower freight costs, lower cost per ticket and higher revenue per game play credit sold as a result of less discounting of amusement revenues, partially offset by an unfavorable shift in ticket redemption patterns.

### ***Operating payroll and benefits***

Total operating payroll and benefits decreased by \$205,495, or 63.6%, to \$117,475 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$322,970 in fiscal 2019. Nearly all of our store workforce, with the exception of a small team of essential personnel, were furloughed in mid-March 2020. Hourly team members returned only as stores re-opened and at reduced staffing levels. The total cost of operating payroll and benefits, as a percentage of total revenues, increased 310 basis points to 26.9% in fiscal 2020 compared to 23.8% for fiscal 2019. Favorable results in hourly labor were offset by the deleveraging impact of management labor as a result of the temporary store closures and continued benefit coverage for furloughed team members. Additionally, late in the third quarter, we recalled a core group of store managers at unopened stores and then maintained this core group throughout the fourth quarter to ensure retention of key team members.

### ***Other store operating expenses***

Other store operating expenses decreased by \$129,967, or 30.3%, to \$299,464 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$429,431 in fiscal 2019. Decreased spend on marketing, maintenance, and restaurant services due to temporary store closures and \$1,000 insurance proceeds related to the COVID-19 business disruptions were partially offset by a net loss on derivatives of \$1,729 and special charges of \$13,727 (consisting of a charge for impairment of long-lived assets of \$12,248 and lease termination costs of \$1,479). We have also incurred additional costs to

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address government regulations and the safety of our team members and customers. Other store operating expense as a percent of total revenues increased to 68.6% in fiscal 2020 compared to 31.8% in fiscal 2019. This increase was primarily due to sales deleveraging of occupancy costs and utilities as a result of the temporary store closures and the charges for impairment.

### ***General and administrative expenses***

General and administrative expenses decreased by \$22,254, or 32.0%, to \$47,215 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$69,469 in fiscal 2019. The decrease in general and administrative expenses was driven primarily by lower labor costs due to continued furloughs and elimination of a significant number of positions at our corporate office, temporarily reducing pay and benefits for team members that were not furloughed for a twelve-week period and the elimination of the corporate bonus program, lower professional services, and reduced travel expenses. General and administrative expenses, as a percentage of total revenues, increased 570 basis points to 10.8% in fiscal 2020 compared to 5.1% in fiscal 2019, due primarily to unfavorable leverage on revenue decreases.

### ***Depreciation and amortization expense***

Depreciation and amortization expense increased by \$6,329, or 4.8%, to \$138,789 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$132,460 in fiscal 2019. Increased depreciation due to our 2020 and 2019 capital expenditures for new stores, operating initiatives, games and maintenance capital, was partially offset by other assets reaching the end of their depreciable lives.

### ***Pre-opening costs***

Pre-opening costs decreased by \$7,695 to \$11,276 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$18,971 in fiscal 2019 due to a decrease in the number of new store openings in the current year, as construction was put on hold or delayed after the disruption of our business from the COVID-19 pandemic, with pre-opening costs being primarily limited to pre-opening rent expense, including three future sites for which the leases have commenced.

### ***Interest expense, net and Loss on debt refinance***

Interest expense, net increased by \$15,953 to \$36,890 in fiscal 2020 compared to \$20,937 in fiscal 2019 due primarily to an increase in interest rates and partially due to an increase in average outstanding debt. In connection with the October 27, 2020 debt refinancing, which is explained in Note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, the Company recorded a charge of \$904 during fiscal 2020.

### ***Provision for income taxes***

The effective income tax rate for fiscal 2020 was a benefit of 28.7% compared to a provision of 21.1% in fiscal 2019, primarily due to the impact of a decrease in operating earnings before income tax as well as the impact of provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), including technical amendments to qualified improvement property and the impact of carrying back tax net operating losses from fiscal years 2020 and 2019 to years with a higher federal corporate income tax rate.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

In response to the business disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which began in the first quarter of fiscal 2020, the Company took the following actions to enable it to meet its obligations over the next twelve months:

- sold shares of our common stock, generating gross proceeds of \$185,600;
- negotiated two amendments with our lenders, resulting in an extension of the maturity date of our revolving credit facility to August 17, 2024, and relief from certain financial covenants;

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- issued \$550,000 of senior secured notes, maturing November 1, 2025;
- negotiated with our landlords, vendors, and other business partners to temporarily reduce our lease and contract payments and obtain other concessions. During fiscal 2020, a total of 126 initial rent relief agreements related to our operating locations and former corporate headquarters were executed, and a second phase of negotiations, generally seeking to delay or extend the terms of deferral pay back periods and/or provide rent relief beyond the periods in the initial agreements, was substantially completed by the end of the Company's second quarter of fiscal 2021, resulting in 99 additional rent relief agreements; and
- The Company has also taken measures to strengthen its financial position. During fiscal 2021, the Company redeemed \$110,000 outstanding principal amount of the Notes. The early redemptions are expected to reduce net cash interest on the Notes by approximately \$8,400 annually.

The Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$25,910 and \$492,495 of liquidity available under its revolving credit facility as of the end of fiscal 2021. Additionally, all the Company's stores were open and operating as of the end of fiscal 2021, except for its two Canadian stores. Although uncertainty persists surrounding future resurgences and variants of COVID-19, what safety measures governments may impose in response to it, as well as how quickly customers will return to our stores, the Company believes there is sufficient liquidity to meet estimated cash flow needs and to comply with our credit facility financial covenants for at least the next twelve months.

### **Debt and Derivatives**

On October 27, 2020, the Company issued \$550,000 aggregate principal amount of 7.625% senior secured notes (the "Notes"). Interest on the Notes accrues from October 27, 2020, payable in arrears on November 1 and May 1 of each year, commencing on May 1, 2021. The Notes mature on November 1, 2025, unless earlier redeemed, and are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the related indenture. Prior to November 1, 2022, but not more than once during any twelve-month period commencing with the issue date of the Notes, the Company may redeem up to 10% of the original principal amount of the Notes at a redemption price of 103% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, at the redemption date. After November 1, 2022, the Company may redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, at certain specified redemption prices, plus accrued and unpaid interest, at the redemption date. The Notes were issued by Dave & Buster's, Inc. and are unconditionally guaranteed by Dave & Buster's Holdings, Inc. and certain of Dave & Buster's, Inc. existing and future wholly owned material domestic subsidiaries, which is substantially the same as the guarantors of the Company's existing credit facility.

The first amendment to the existing credit facility, effective April 14, 2020, increased the interest rate spread on variable rate debt to 2.00% plus a LIBOR floor of 1.00%. Concurrent and subject to the issuance of the Notes, the Company executed a second amendment, which included relief from testing compliance with certain financial covenants until the last day of the fiscal quarter ending on May 1, 2022. During the financial covenant suspension period the Company is required to maintain a minimum liquidity (primarily availability under the credit facility) of \$150,000. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, the Company ended this financial covenant suspension period. The second amendment extended the maturity of the \$500,000 revolving portion of the facility from August 17, 2022, to August 17, 2024, increased the interest rate spread to 4.00%, and instituted a 1.00% utilization fee due at maturity. After the first quarter of fiscal 2022, when the financial covenant suspension increased pricing period ends, the interest rate spread ranges from 1.25% to 3.00% and the utilization fee will cease.

The second amendment also terminated the term loan portion of the credit facility, triggering payment of \$1,900 of lender debt costs, and the Company recorded a loss of \$904 related to the unamortized debt costs associated with the term portion of the credit facility. The Company used the proceeds of the Notes offering, along with cash on hand, to repay the \$255,000 principal balance of the term loan facility, \$463,000 of borrowings under the revolving credit facility, and related accrued interest. The Company incurred debt costs of



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\$18,300 associated with the issuance of the Notes and the second amendment to the credit facility, which are being amortized over the respective terms.

During fiscal 2021, the Company redeemed a total of \$110,000 outstanding principal amount of the Notes in two separate transactions. In connection with the early redemption of the Notes, the Company paid prepayment premiums of \$3,300, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemptions, pursuant to the terms of the indenture governing the Notes. Additionally, the early redemptions of the Notes resulted in a loss on extinguishment of approximately \$2,300 related to a proportionate amount of unamortized issuance costs.

For fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, the Company's weighted average interest rate on outstanding borrowings was 10.34% and 5.40%, respectively. The rate has increased due to the issuance of the Notes and the second amendment to the credit facility. As of January 30, 2022, we had letters of credit outstanding of \$7,505 and an unused commitment balance of \$492,495 under the revolving credit facility. The Company's Notes and credit facility contain restrictive covenants that, among other things, place certain limitations on our ability to incur additional indebtedness, make loans or advances to subsidiaries and other entities, pay dividends, acquire other businesses or sell assets. As of January 30, 2022, the Company was in compliance with the financial covenants of our credit facility and all restrictive covenants of the Notes and credit facility.

During fiscal 2019, we entered into interest rate swap agreements to manage our exposure to fluctuations in interest rates on our variable rate credit facility. Our swap agreements with our derivative counterparties contain a provision where if the Company defaults on any of its indebtedness and repayment of the indebtedness has been accelerated, the Company could also be declared in default on its derivative obligations. Refer to Note 1 of the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of our swap agreements, which were de-designated as hedges effective April 14, 2020, the date of the first amendment to our credit facility.

### **Dividends and Share Repurchases**

On December 6, 2021, our Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program with an authorization limit of \$100,000, expiring at the end of fiscal 2022. Future decisions to pay cash dividends or repurchase shares continue to be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will be dependent on our operating performance, financial condition, capital expenditure requirements and other factors that the Board of Directors considers relevant. There were no dividends declared or share repurchases under the relevant share authorization programs in either fiscal 2021 or fiscal 2020.

### **Cash Flow Summary**

As of the end of fiscal 2021, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$25,910.

**Operating Activities**— Cash flow from operations typically provides us with a significant source of liquidity. Our operating cash flows result primarily from cash received from our customers, offset by cash payments we make for products and services, employee compensation, operations, and occupancy costs. Cash from operating activities is also subject to changes in working capital. Working capital at any specific point in time is subject to many variables, including seasonality, the timing of cash receipts and payments, and vendor payment terms.

Cash flow from operating activities increased \$332,352 in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020 driven primarily by the impact of approximately 3,200 more store weeks.

**Investing Activities** — Cash flow from investing activities primarily reflects capital expenditures.

- In fiscal 2021, the Company spent approximately \$53,000 (\$37,000 net of payments from landlords) for new store construction and operating improvement initiatives, \$15,000 for game refreshment and \$24,000 for maintenance capital.

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- In fiscal 2020, the Company spent approximately \$64,000 (\$51,000 net of payments from landlords) for new store construction and operating improvement initiatives, \$10,000 for game refreshment and \$9,000 for maintenance capital
- In fiscal 2019, the Company spent approximately \$187,000 (\$153,000 net of payments from landlords) for new store construction and operating improvement initiatives, \$19,000 for game refreshment and \$22,000 for maintenance capital.

### **Financing Activities** — Cash flow from financing activities primarily reflected:

- In fiscal 2021, the Company had net repayments of \$60,000 of its revolving credit facility and a repayment related to the early extinguishment of \$110,000 principal of the Notes.
- In fiscal 2020, prior to the debt refinancing, the Company drew down substantially all the available credit under our revolving credit facility, or approximately \$100,000, and the Company received net proceeds of approximately \$182,200 from the issuance of shares of our common stock in April and May 2020. In October 2020, the Company issued \$550,000 of senior secured notes in a private offering and amended the existing credit facility. The proceeds from the offering, along with cash on hand, were used to pay debt issuance costs, the \$255,000 balance of the term portion of the credit facility, and \$463,000 of outstanding borrowings under the revolving portion of the credit facility. Subsequent to the refinancing, the Company had net borrowings of \$34,000 under the revolver.
- In fiscal 2019, approximately \$297,000 of share repurchases and approximately \$16,000 of cash dividends paid, partially offset by \$254,000 of net proceeds from borrowings of debt.

The Company has long-term debt obligations under its senior notes and long-term lease commitments. See Notes 5 and 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding these commitments.

### **Critical accounting policies and estimates**

The above discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Our significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. Critical accounting policies are those that we believe are most important to portraying our financial condition and results of operations and require the greatest amount of judgment by management. Judgment or uncertainties regarding the application of these policies may result in materially different amounts being reported under different conditions or using different assumptions. We consider the following policies to be the most critical in understanding the judgment that is involved in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

**Accounting for amusement operations.** Amusement revenues are primarily recognized upon utilization of game play credits on Power Cards purchased and used by customers to activate video and redemption games. Redemption games allow customers to earn tickets, which may be redeemed for prizes in our WIN! area. We have deferred a portion of amusement revenues for the estimated unfulfilled performance obligations based on an estimated rate of future use by customers of unused game play credits and the material right provided to customers to redeem tickets in the future for prizes. We estimate the amount of deferred revenue based upon credits and tickets remaining on Power Cards, historic game play credit and ticket utilization patterns and estimates of the standalone selling prices of game play credits and the customer material right. The standalone selling price of the customer material right is estimated using an equivalent chip cost plus margin approach. For purposes of recognizing revenue, the total amount collected from each customer is then allocated between the two performance obligations based on the relative standalone selling price of each obligation.

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**Accounting for impairment of long-lived assets.** We assess the potential impairment of our long-lived assets related to each store to be held and used in business, including property and equipment and right-of-use (“ROU”) assets, on an annual basis or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying values of these assets may not be recoverable. In determining the recoverability of the asset value, an analysis is performed at the individual store level, since this is the lowest level of identifiable cash flows and primarily includes an assessment of historical cash flows and other relevant factors and circumstances, including the maturity of the store, changes in the economic environment, unfavorable changes in legal factors or business climate and future operating plans. The more significant inputs used in determining our estimate of the projected undiscounted cash flows included future revenue growth and projected margins as well as the estimate of the remaining useful life of the assets. If the carrying amount is not recoverable, we record an impairment charge, if any, for the excess of the carrying amount over the fair value, which is estimated based on discounted projected future operating cash flows of the store over the remaining service life using a risk adjusted discount rate that is commensurate with the inherent risk.

### **Recent accounting pronouncements.**

Refer to Note 1 of Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding new accounting pronouncements.

## **ITEM 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

### **Commodity Price Risk**

We are exposed to market price fluctuation in food, beverage, supplies and other costs such as energy. Given the historical volatility of certain of our food product prices, including proteins, seafood, produce, dairy products, and cooking oil, these fluctuations can materially impact our food costs. While our purchasing commitments partially mitigate the risk of such fluctuations, there is no assurance that supply and demand factors such as disease or inclement weather will not cause the prices of the commodities used in our restaurant operations to fluctuate. Additionally, the cost of purchased materials may be influenced by tariffs and other trade regulations which are outside of our control. To the extent that we do not pass along cost increases to our customers, our results of operations may be adversely affected.

### **Interest Rate Risk**

Outstanding borrowings on our revolving credit facility are based on variable rates, and we have historically elected to use LIBOR. Although our borrowing arrangements provide for alternative base rates other than LIBOR, those rates have historically been higher than those we paid based on LIBOR (which currently is subject to a floor of 1.00%). When LIBOR ceases to exist, we will likely need to agree upon a replacement index with our lenders, and the interest rate thereunder will likely change. As of January 30, 2022, there was no balance outstanding on our revolving credit facility.

### **Inflation**

Severe increases in inflation could affect the United States or global economies and have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operation. If several of the various costs in our business experience inflation at the same time, such as commodity price increases beyond our ability to control and increased labor costs, we may not be able to adjust prices to sufficiently offset the effect of the various cost increases without negatively impacting consumer demand.

**ITEM 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

The consolidated financial statements required to be filed herein are set forth in Part IV, Item 15 of this report.

**ITEM 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.

**ITEM 9A. Controls and Procedures**

**Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our Exchange Act reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15 promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, the Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

**Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Our management, including our interim CEO and CFO, is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act. Our system of internal control over financial reporting was designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements in accordance with GAAP. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance and may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Our management conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of January 30, 2022, based on the framework in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)*, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. This evaluation included documenting, evaluating, and testing the design and operating effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. Based on this evaluation, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of January 30, 2022.

Our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, audited the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of January 30, 2022, as stated in their report which is included herein.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our fourth fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**ITEM 9B. Other Information**

None.

**ITEM 9C. Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspection**

None.

**PART III**

**ITEM 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

The information required by Item 10 is incorporated herein by reference to the sections entitled “Proposal No. 1—Election of Directors”, “Directors and Corporate Governance”, “Executive Officers” and “Executive Compensation” in the Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 11. Executive Compensation**

The information required by Item 11 is incorporated herein by reference to the sections entitled “Proposal No. 1—Election of Directors”, “Directors and Corporate Governance” and “Executive Compensation” in the Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

The information required by Item 12 is incorporated herein by reference to the sections entitled “Executive Compensation” and “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” in the Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence**

The information required by Item 13 is incorporated herein by reference to the sections entitled “Directors and Corporate Governance” and “Transactions with Related Persons” in the Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

The information required by Item 14 is incorporated herein by reference to the section entitled “Proposal No. 2 – Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in the Proxy Statement.

**PART IV**

**ITEM 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

- (1) Financial Statements  
See Pages F-1 to F-27 of this report.
- (2) Financial Statement Schedules  
None.
- (3) Exhibits

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description</u>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 3.1                   | <a href="#">Fourth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Current Report filed on Form 8-K by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on June 12, 2017 (No. 001-35664))</a>   |
| 3.2                   | <a href="#">Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Current Report filed on Form 8-K by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on June 12, 2017 (No. 001-35664))</a>  |
| 3.3                   | <a href="#">Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Current Report filed on Form 8-K by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on March 19, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</a>   |
| 4.1                   | <a href="#">Form of Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Amendment 1 to the Form S-1 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on September 24, 2014 (No. 333-198641))</a>  |
| 4.2                   | <a href="#">Rights Agreement, dated as of March 18, 2020, between Registrant and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Current Report filed on Form 8-K by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on March 19, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</a>   |
| 4.3                   | <a href="#">Amended and Restated Description of the Registrant’s Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on June 10, 2021 (No. 001-35664))</a>   |
| 4.4                   | <a href="#">Indenture dated as of October 27, 2020, by and among Dave &amp; Buster’s, Inc., the guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank, National Association, as trustee and collateral agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 27, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</a>   |
| 4.5                   | <a href="#">Form of Note (incorporated by reference to Appendix A of Exhibit 4.1 of the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 27, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</a>  |
| 10.1                  | <a href="#">Form of Employee Agreement by and among Dave &amp; Buster’s Management Corporation, Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc., and the various executive officers of Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form S-1 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on September 18, 2015 (No. 333-207031))</a> |
| 10.2                  | <a href="#">Dave &amp; Buster’s Parent, Inc. 2010 Management Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form S-4 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s, Inc. on August 11, 2010 (No. 333-168759))</a>   |
| 10.3                  | <a href="#">Amendment No. 1 to the Dave &amp; Buster’s Parent, Inc. 2010 Management Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s, Inc. on June 15, 2011) (No. 001-15007)</a>   |
| 10.4                  | <a href="#">Amendment No. 2 to the Dave &amp; Buster’s Parent, Inc. 2010 Management Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the annual report on Form 10-K filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s, Inc. on April 16, 2013) (No. 001-15007)</a>   |
| 10.5                  | <a href="#">Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. Amended and Restated 2014 Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Proxy Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on May 13, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</a>  |

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| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10.6                  | <a href="#"><u>Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Award Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and various Directors of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Form S-1 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on September 18, 2015 (No. 333-207031))</u></a>   |
| 10.7                  | <a href="#"><u>Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Award Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and various employees of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Form S-1 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on September 18, 2015 (No. 333-207031))</u></a>   |
| 10.8                  | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and various Directors of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Form S-1 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on September 18, 2015 (No. 333-207031))</u></a>  |
| 10.9                  | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit and Cash Award Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and various employees of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Form S-1 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on September 18, 2015 (No. 333-207031))</u></a>   |
| 10.10                 | <a href="#"><u>Dave &amp; Buster's Select Executive Retirement Plan as amended and restated by Dave &amp; Buster's Management Corporation, Inc., effective as of January 1, 2017, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on December 10, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>   |
| 10.11                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Indemnification Agreement for directors, executive officers and key employees (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Amendment 1 to the Form S-1 Registration Statement filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on September 24, 2014 (No. 333-198641))</u></a>  |
| 10.12                 | <a href="#"><u>Credit Agreement, dated as of August 17, 2017 by and among Dave &amp; Buster's Holdings, Inc., Dave &amp; Buster's Inc. ("the Borrower") the direct and indirect Subsidiaries of the Borrower from time to time party thereto, as guarantors, the several financial institutions from time to time party thereto, as lenders, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, and Wells Fargo, National Association, as syndication agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 23, 2017)</u></a> |
| 10.13                 | <a href="#"><u>First Amendment to Amended and Restated Credit Agreement among Dave &amp; Buster's, Inc., various lenders and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on June 11, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>   |
| 10.14                 | <a href="#"><u>Second Amendment and Consent and Revolving Credit Commitment Extension Amendment to Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of October 16, 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 27, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>   |
| 10.15                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Award Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and various employees of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on June 11, 2019 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>   |
| 10.16                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and various Directors of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed by Dave &amp; Buster's Entertainment, Inc. on June 11, 2019 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>   |



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| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description</u>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.17                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit and Cash Award Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. and various employees of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on June 11, 2019 (No. 001-35664))</u></a> |
| 10.18                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. and various employees of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed by Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. on June 11, 2019 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>                |
| 10.19                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Market Stock Unit Award Agreement by and between Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. and various employees of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 4, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>  |
| 10.20                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, by and between Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. and various employees of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 4, 2020 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>   |
| 10.21                 | <a href="#"><u>Transition and Separation Agreement and Release by and between Brian A. Jenkins and Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. and Dave &amp; Buster’s Management Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>                  |
| 10.22                 | <a href="#"><u>Interim CEO Letter Agreement by and between Kevin Sheehan and Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. and Dave &amp; Buster’s Management Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>  |
| 10.23                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement by and between Kevin Sheehan and Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>  |
| 10.24                 | <a href="#"><u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement by and between Kevin Sheehan and Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021 (No. 001-35664))</u></a>  |
| 10.25*                | <a href="#"><u>Employment Agreement by and among Dave &amp; Buster’s Management Corporation, Dave &amp; Buster’s Entertainment, Inc., and Michael Quartieri effective January 1, 2022</u></a>   |
| 21.1*                 | <a href="#"><u>Subsidiaries of the Registrant</u></a>   |
| 23.1*                 | <a href="#"><u>Consent of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u></a>   |
| 24.1*                 | <a href="#"><u>Power of Attorney (included on signature page)</u></a>   |
| 31.1*                 | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Kevin M. Sheehan, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a).</u></a>  |
| 31.2*                 | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Michael A. Quartieri, Chief Financial Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to 17 CFR 240.13a-14(a) or 17 CFR 240.15d-14(a).</u></a>  |
| 32.1*                 | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Kevin M. Sheehan, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u></a>  |
| 32.2*                 | <a href="#"><u>Certification of Michael A. Quartieri, Chief Financial Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u></a>  |
| 101.INS               | XBRL Inline Instance Document—the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document   |

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| <u>Exhibit<br/>Number</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 101.SCH                   | Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document   |
| 101.CAL                   | Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document                             |
| 101.DEF                   | Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document                              |
| 101.LAB                   | Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document                                   |
| 101.PRE                   | Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document                            |
| 104                       | Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101) |

\* Filed herein

### **ITEM 16. Form 10-K Summary**

None.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.,  
a Delaware Corporation

Date: March 29, 2022

By: /s/ Michael A. Quartieri  
Michael A. Quartieri  
Chief Financial Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each of the undersigned constitutes and appoints each of Kevin M. Sheehan and Rob W. Edmund, or either of them, each acting alone, his/her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and re-substitution, for such person and in his/her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this Report, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, each acting alone, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he/she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming that any such attorney-in-fact and agent, or his/her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we have signed in our indicated capacities on March 29, 2022.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| By: <u>/s/ Kevin M. Sheehan</u><br>Kevin M. Sheehan         | Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board<br>(Principal Executive Officer) |
| By: <u>/s/ Michael A. Quartieri</u><br>Michael A. Quartieri | Chief Financial Officer<br>(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)                 |
| By: <u>/s/ James Chambers</u><br>James Chambers             | Director  |
| By: <u>/s/ Hamish A. Dodds</u><br>Hamish A. Dodds           | Director  |
| By: <u>/s/ Michael J. Griffith</u><br>Michael J. Griffith   | Director  |
| By: <u>/s/ Patricia H. Mueller</u><br>Patricia H. Mueller   | Director  |
| By: <u>/s/ Atish Shah</u><br>Atish Shah                     | Director  |
| By: <u>/s/ Jennifer Storms</u><br>Jennifer Storms           | Director  |

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| <a href="#"><u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u></a>   | F-6  |
| <a href="#"><u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)</u></a>  | F-7  |
| <a href="#"><u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity</u></a>   | F-8  |
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| <a href="#"><u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u></a>  | F-10 |

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Stockholders and Board of Directors  
Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc.:

*Opinion on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*

We have audited Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and subsidiaries' (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of January 30, 2022, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of January 30, 2022, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the consolidated balance sheets of the Company as of January 30, 2022 and January 31, 2021, the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended January 30, 2022, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements), and our report dated March 29, 2022 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

*Basis for Opinion*

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying *Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Definition and Limitations of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

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Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Dallas, Texas  
March 29, 2022

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Stockholders and Board of Directors  
Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc.:

*Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements*

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of January 30, 2022 and January 31, 2021, the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended January 30, 2022, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of January 30, 2022 and January 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended January 30, 2022, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of January 30, 2022, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report dated March 29, 2022 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

*Basis for Opinion*

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Critical Audit Matters*

The critical audit matters communicated below are matters arising from the current period audit of the consolidated financial statements that were communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that: (1) relate to accounts or disclosures that are material to the consolidated financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matters below, providing separate opinions on the critical audit matters or on the accounts or disclosures to which they relate.

*Deferred amusement revenue for unused game play credits*

As discussed in Notes 1 and 4 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company defers a portion of amusement revenues for the estimated unfulfilled performance obligations related to unused game play credits which they believe their customers will utilize in the future. The Company recorded deferred amusement revenue of \$93.0 million as of January 30, 2022, which is included in accrued liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet

and disclosed as deferred amusement revenue. This balance includes deferred revenue related to unused game play credits. The deferral is based on an estimated rate of future use by customers. The Company applies judgment to determine the estimated rate of future use by customers using information about game play credits outstanding and historical customer utilization patterns.

We identified the evaluation of the estimated rate of future use assumption used to determine deferred amusement revenue for unused game play credits as a critical audit matter. Subjective auditor judgment was required to evaluate the effect of historical customer usage patterns on the estimated rate of future use assumption, including consideration of the impacts of customer usage patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic on management's assumption.

The following are the primary procedures we performed to address this critical audit matter. We evaluated the design and tested the operating effectiveness of certain internal controls over the Company's deferred amusement revenue process, including controls related to the development of the estimated rate of future use assumption. We evaluated historical periods' game play credit activity for indication of significant changes in customer behavior and to determine whether changes in the historical activity were consistent with changes in the Company's business that impact the estimated rate of future usage assumption, including changes in customer usage patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic. We compared trends of customers' historical use patterns to the Company's estimated rate of future use assumption. We assessed the outstanding game play credit data utilized by the Company to derive the estimated rate of future use assumption by comparing it to relevant underlying documentation.

*Deferred amusement revenue for unredeemed tickets*

As discussed in Notes 1 and 4 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company defers a portion of amusement revenue for the material right provided to customers to redeem tickets in the future for prizes. The Company recorded deferred amusement revenue of \$93.0 million as of January 30, 2022, which is included in accrued liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet and disclosed as deferred amusement revenue. This balance includes deferred revenue related to the material right to redeem tickets in the future. The deferral is based on an estimated redemption rate of outstanding tickets that will be redeemed in subsequent periods. The Company applies judgment to determine the redemption rate assumption using information about tickets outstanding and historical customer utilization patterns.

We identified the evaluation of the estimated redemption rate assumption used to determine deferred amusement revenue for unredeemed tickets as a critical audit matter. Subjective auditor judgment was required to evaluate the effect of historical customer usage patterns on the estimated rate of future use assumption, including consideration of the impacts of customer usage patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic on management's assumption.

The following are the primary procedures we performed to address this critical audit matter. We evaluated the design and tested the operating effectiveness of certain internal controls over the Company's deferred amusement revenue process, including controls related to the development of the redemption rate assumption. We evaluated historical periods' ticket redemption activity for indication of significant changes in customer behavior and to determine whether changes in the historical activity were consistent with changes in the Company's business that impact the estimated redemption rate assumption, including changes in customer redemption patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic. We compared trends of customers' historical redemption patterns to the Company's estimated redemption rate assumption. We assessed the outstanding ticket data utilized by the Company to derive the redemption rate assumption by comparing it to relevant underlying documentation.

/s/ KPMG LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2010.

Dallas, Texas  
March 29, 2022



**DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|   | <u>January 30,<br/>2022</u> | <u>January 31,<br/>2021</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                             |                             |
| Current assets:   |                             |                             |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 25,910                   | \$ 11,891                   |
| Inventories   | 40,319                      | 23,807                      |
| Prepaid expenses  | 11,316                      | 11,878                      |
| Income taxes receivable   | 64,921                      | 70,064                      |
| Other current assets  | 3,105                       | 1,231                       |
| Total current assets  | <u>145,571</u>              | <u>118,871</u>              |
| Property and equipment (net of \$908,536 and \$798,804 accumulated depreciation as of January 30, 2022 and January 31, 2021, respectively)  | 778,597                     | 815,027                     |
| Operating lease right of use assets, net  | 1,037,197                   | 1,037,569                   |
| Deferred tax assets   | 9,961                       | 5,874                       |
| Tradenames  | 79,000                      | 79,000                      |
| Goodwill  | 272,597                     | 272,597                     |
| Other assets and deferred charges   | 22,867                      | 23,886                      |
| Total assets  | <u>\$ 2,345,790</u>         | <u>\$ 2,352,824</u>         |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>   |                             |                             |
| Current liabilities:  |                             |                             |
| Accounts payable  | \$ 62,493                   | \$ 36,400                   |
| Accrued liabilities   | 248,493                     | 234,790                     |
| Income taxes payable  | 529                         | 446                         |
| Total current liabilities   | <u>311,515</u>              | <u>271,636</u>              |
| Deferred income taxes   | 12,012                      | 13,658                      |
| Operating lease liabilities   | 1,277,539                   | 1,267,791                   |
| Other liabilities   | 37,869                      | 50,119                      |
| Long-term debt, net   | 431,395                     | 596,388                     |
| Commitments and contingencies   |                             |                             |
| Stockholders' equity:   |                             |                             |
| Common stock, par value \$0.01; authorized: 400,000,000 shares; issued: 61,563,613 shares at January 30, 2022 and 60,488,833 shares at January 31, 2021; outstanding: 48,489,935 shares at January 30, 2022 and 47,646,606 shares at January 31, 2021 | 616                         | 605                         |
| Preferred stock, 50,000,000 authorized; none issued   | —                           | —                           |
| Paid-in capital   | 548,776                     | 531,191                     |
| Treasury stock, 13,073,678 and 12,842,227 shares as of January 30, 2022 and January 31, 2021, respectively  | (605,435)                   | (595,970)                   |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss  | (3,628)                     | (9,085)                     |
| Retained earnings   | <u>335,131</u>              | <u>226,491</u>              |
| Total stockholders' equity  | <u>275,460</u>              | <u>153,232</u>              |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity  | <u>\$ 2,345,790</u>         | <u>\$ 2,352,824</u>         |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)**

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|   | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>January 30,<br>2022 | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>January 31,<br>2021 | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>February 2,<br>2020 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Food and beverage revenues                                | \$ 436,637                                  | \$ 159,501                                  | \$ 563,576                                  |
| Amusement and other revenues                              | 867,419                                     | 277,011                                     | 791,115                                     |
| Total revenues  | 1,304,056                                   | 436,512                                     | 1,354,691                                   |
| Cost of food and beverage                                 | 119,123                                     | 45,207                                      | 148,196                                     |
| Cost of amusement and other                               | 85,848                                      | 29,698                                      | 85,115                                      |
| Total cost of products                                    | 204,971                                     | 74,905                                      | 233,311                                     |
| Operating payroll and benefits                            | 287,263                                     | 117,475                                     | 322,970                                     |
| Other store operating expenses                            | 402,661                                     | 299,464                                     | 429,431                                     |
| General and administrative expenses                       | 75,501                                      | 47,215                                      | 69,469                                      |
| Depreciation and amortization expense                     | 138,329                                     | 138,789                                     | 132,460                                     |
| Pre-opening costs   | 8,150                                       | 11,276                                      | 18,971                                      |
| Total operating costs                                     | 1,116,875                                   | 689,124                                     | 1,206,612                                   |
| Operating income (loss)                                   | 187,181                                     | (252,612)                                   | 148,079                                     |
| Interest expense, net                                     | 53,910                                      | 36,890                                      | 20,937                                      |
| Loss on debt extinguishment / refinance                   | 5,617                                       | 904   | —   |
| Income (loss) before provision (benefit) for income taxes | 127,654                                     | (290,406)                                   | 127,142                                     |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes                      | 19,014                                      | (83,432)                                    | 26,879                                      |
| Net income (loss)   | 108,640                                     | (206,974)                                   | 100,263                                     |
| Unrealized foreign currency translation gain (loss)       | (28)  | 119   | (65)  |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives, net of tax         | 5,485                                       | (835)                                       | (7,621)                                     |
| Total other comprehensive gain (loss)                     | 5,457                                       | (716)                                       | (7,686)                                     |
| Total comprehensive income (loss)                         | \$ 114,097                                  | \$ (207,690)                                | \$ 92,577                                   |
| Net income (loss) per share:                              |   |   |   |
| Basic   | \$ 2.26                                     | \$ (4.75)                                   | \$ 3.00                                     |
| Diluted   | \$ 2.21                                     | \$ (4.75)                                   | \$ 2.94                                     |
| Weighted average shares used in per share calculations:   |   |   |   |
| Basic   | 48,142,090                                  | 43,549,887                                  | 33,450,217                                  |
| Diluted   | 49,263,720                                  | 43,549,887                                  | 34,099,378                                  |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**  
(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|   | Common Stock |       | Paid-In<br>Capital | Treasury Stock<br>At Cost |             | Accumulated<br>Other<br>Comprehensive<br>Income (loss) | Retained<br>Earnings | Total      |
|---|--------------|-------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------|------------|
|   | Shares       | Amt.  |                    | Shares                    | Amt.        |  |                      |            |
| <b>Balance February 3, 2019</b>                                   | 43,177,476   | 432   | 331,255            | 5,655,391                 | (297,129)   | (683)  | 353,962              | 387,837    |
| Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle, net of tax | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | —  | (145)                | (145)      |
| Net income  | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | —  | 100,263              | 100,263    |
| Unrealized foreign currency translation loss                      | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | (65)   | —                    | (65)       |
| Unrealized loss on derivatives, net of tax                        | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | (7,621)  | —                    | (7,621)    |
| Dividends declared (\$0.62 per share)                             | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | —  | (20,615)             | (20,615)   |
| Share-based compensation  | —            | —     | 6,857              | —                         | —           | —  | —                    | 6,857      |
| Issuance of common stock  | 209,376      | 2     | 1,049              | —                         | —           | —  | —                    | 1,051      |
| Repurchase of common stock  | —            | —     | —                  | 7,128,121                 | (297,912)   | —  | —                    | (297,912)  |
| <b>Balance February 2, 2020</b>                                   | 43,386,852   | 434   | 339,161            | 12,783,512                | (595,041)   | (8,369)  | 433,465              | 169,650    |
| Net loss  | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | —  | (206,974)            | (206,974)  |
| Unrealized foreign currency translation gain                      | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | 119  | —                    | 119        |
| Unrealized loss on derivatives, net of tax                        | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | (835)  | —                    | (835)      |
| Share-based compensation  | —            | —     | 6,985              | —                         | —           | —  | —                    | 6,985      |
| Issuance of common stock  | 17,101,981   | 171   | 185,045            | —                         | —           | —  | —                    | 185,216    |
| Repurchase of common stock  | —            | —     | —                  | 58,715                    | (929)       | —  | —                    | (929)      |
| <b>Balance January 31, 2021</b>                                   | 60,488,833   | 605   | 531,191            | 12,842,227                | (595,970)   | (9,085)  | 226,491              | 153,232    |
| Net income  | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | —  | 108,640              | 108,640    |
| Unrealized foreign currency translation loss                      | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | (28)   | —                    | (28)       |
| Unrealized gain on derivatives, net of tax                        | —            | —     | —                  | —                         | —           | 5,485  | —                    | 5,485      |
| Share-based compensation  | —            | —     | 12,472             | —                         | —           | —  | —                    | 12,472     |
| Issuance of common stock  | 1,074,780    | 11    | 5,113              | —                         | —           | —  | —                    | 5,124      |
| Repurchase of common stock  | —            | —     | —                  | 231,451                   | (9,465)     | —  | —                    | (9,465)    |
| <b>Balance January 30, 2022</b>                                   | 61,563,613   | \$616 | \$548,776          | 13,073,678                | \$(605,435) | \$ (3,628)   | \$ 335,131           | \$ 275,460 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(in thousands)

|  | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>January 30,<br>2022 | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>January 31,<br>2021 | Fiscal Year<br>Ended<br>February 2,<br>2020 |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>   |   |   |   |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 108,640                                  | \$ (206,974)                                | \$ 100,263                                  |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: |   |   |   |
| Depreciation and amortization expense  | 138,329                                     | 138,789                                     | 132,460                                     |
| Non-cash interest expense  | 7,547                                       | 5,974                                       | —   |
| Impairment of long-lived assets  | 912   | 12,248                                      | —   |
| Deferred taxes   | (7,795)                                     | (3,365)                                     | 6,473                                       |
| Loss on debt extinguishment or refinancing   | 5,617                                       | 904   | —   |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets   | 1,392                                       | 577   | 1,813                                       |
| Share-based compensation   | 12,472                                      | 6,985                                       | 6,857                                       |
| Other, net   | 4,201                                       | 2,033                                       | 1,070                                       |
| Changes in assets and liabilities:   |   |   |   |
| Inventories  | (16,512)                                    | 10,670                                      | (7,162)                                     |
| Prepaid expenses   | 562   | 2,993                                       | (2,162)                                     |
| Income tax receivable  | 5,143                                       | (67,733)                                    | (451)                                       |
| Other current assets   | (1,874)                                     | 2,014                                       | 5,320                                       |
| Other assets and deferred charges  | (63)  | 484   | (1,017)                                     |
| Accounts payable   | 14,286                                      | (9,576)                                     | 2,026                                       |
| Accrued liabilities  | 20,223                                      | 56,757                                      | 47,896                                      |
| Income taxes payable   | 83  | (2,608)                                     | (8,745)                                     |
| Other liabilities  | (10,035)                                    | 604   | 4,305                                       |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities  | <u>283,128</u>                              | <u>(49,224)</u>                             | <u>288,946</u>                              |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>   |   |   |   |
| Capital expenditures   | (92,197)                                    | (83,016)                                    | (228,091)                                   |
| Proceeds from insurance  | —   | 595   | —   |
| Proceeds from sales of property and equipment  | 729   | 461   | 800   |
| Net cash used in investing activities  | <u>(91,468)</u>                             | <u>(81,960)</u>                             | <u>(227,291)</u>                            |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>   |   |   |   |
| Proceeds from debt   | 83,000                                      | 732,000                                     | 406,000                                     |
| Payments of debt   | (253,000)                                   | (770,250)                                   | (152,000)                                   |
| Debt issuance costs and prepayment premiums  | (3,300)                                     | (20,209)                                    | —   |
| Net proceeds from the issuance of common stock   | —   | 182,207                                     | —   |
| Repurchase of common stock under share repurchase program  | —   | —   | (297,317)                                   |
| Repurchases of common stock to satisfy employee withholding tax obligations                        | (9,465)                                     | (929)                                       | (595)                                       |
| Dividends paid   | —   | (4,891)                                     | (15,724)                                    |
| Proceeds from the exercise of stock options  | 5,124                                       | 492   | 1,051                                       |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities  | <u>(177,641)</u>                            | <u>118,420</u>                              | <u>(58,585)</u>                             |
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents   | 14,019                                      | (12,764)                                    | 3,070                                       |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents  | 11,891                                      | 24,655                                      | 21,585                                      |
| <b>Ending cash and cash equivalents</b>  | <u>\$ 25,910</u>                            | <u>\$ 11,891</u>                            | <u>\$ 24,655</u>                            |
| <b>Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:</b>  |   |   |   |
| Increase (decrease) for capital expenditures in accounts payable                                   | \$ 11,807                                   | \$ (19,383)                                 | \$ 2,906                                    |
| Cash paid (received) for income taxes, net   | \$ 21,549                                   | \$ (9,352)                                  | \$ 27,245                                   |
| Cash paid for interest, net  | \$ 44,545                                   | \$ 17,916                                   | \$ 20,115                                   |
| Dividends declared, not paid   | \$ —  | \$ —  | \$ 4,891                                    |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

**Note 1: Description of the Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Description of the business** — Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. ("D&B Entertainment") is a Delaware corporation formed in June 2010. References to the "Company", "we", "us", and "our" refers to D&B Entertainment, any predecessor companies, and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Dave & Buster's Holdings, Inc. ("D&B Holdings"), a holding company which owns 100% of the outstanding common stock of Dave & Buster's, Inc. ("D&B Inc"), the operating company. The Company, headquartered in Coppell, Texas, is a leading operator of high-volume entertainment and dining venues ("stores") in North America for adults and families under the name "Dave & Buster's". The Company operates its business as one operating and one reportable segment.

During fiscal 2021, we opened five new stores, including one store in Cary, North Carolina that was closed and relocated during the fourth quarter. During fiscal 2020, we opened six new stores, and management made the decision to not re-open two stores located in the Chicago, Illinois area and Houston, Texas area, which were at or near the end of their respective lease terms. At January 30, 2022, we owned and operated 144 stores located in 40 states, Puerto Rico and one Canadian province.

The Company's two stores located in the Canadian province of Ontario generated revenues of approximately \$6,858, \$2,896, and \$18,649 in fiscal 2021, 2020 and 2019, respectively. At January 30, 2022, less than 2.0% of our long-lived assets were located outside of the United States.

**COVID-19 Considerations** — In March 2020, a novel strain of coronavirus ("COVID-19") outbreak was declared a global pandemic and a National Public Health Emergency. Shortly after the national emergency declaration, state and local officials began placing restrictions on businesses, some of which allowed To-Go or curbside service only while others limited capacity in the dining room or Midway. By March 20, 2020, all our 137 operating stores were temporarily closed. On April 30, 2020, our first store re-opened to the public, and by the end of fiscal 2020, 107 of our 140 stores were open and operating in limited capacity. The Company re-opened the remaining 33 stores that had been temporarily closed by August 1, 2021, the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2021. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, our two Canadian stores temporarily closed due to the resurgence, and shortly after the end of our fiscal year, the two stores re-opened with limited operations.

During fiscal 2020, the Company negotiated with landlords and other vendors to negotiate relief from cash payments under existing lease and trade payable obligations, extending or reducing payment terms with several vendors. A total of 126 initial rent relief agreements related to our operating locations and former corporate headquarters were executed during fiscal 2020, and a second phase of negotiations, generally seeking to delay or extend the terms of deferral pay back periods and/or provide rent relief beyond the periods in the initial agreements, was substantially completed by the end of the Company's second quarter of fiscal 2021 and resulted in 99 additional rent relief agreements.

The Company obtained additional liquidity during fiscal 2020 through the sale of common stock, which resulted in net proceeds of \$182,207 and completed the private sale of \$550,000 in aggregate principal amount of 7.625% senior secured notes due 2025. In that same year, the revolving credit commitments under our existing credit facility were extended through August 17, 2024, and the suspension of our financial ratio covenants was extended until the last day of the first quarter of fiscal year 2022. During fiscal 2021, the Company redeemed \$110,000 outstanding principal amount of the senior secured notes and elected to end the financial covenant suspension period as of the last day of the third quarter of fiscal 2021. At the end of fiscal 2021, the Company had \$492,495 of liquidity available under its revolving credit facility. See Note 5, Debt, for more information on these transactions.

The measures taken by the Company as well as the re-opening of the Company's stores provide sufficient liquidity to meet estimated cash flow needs and covenant compliance obligations for at least the next twelve months from the issuance of the financial statements. We cannot predict whether, when or the manner in which

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the conditions surrounding COVID-19, particularly as a result of new variants of COVID-19, will change, including additional vaccination or mask mandates, capacity restrictions or re-closures of our currently open stores and customer engagement with our brand.

**Principles of consolidation** — The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of D&B Entertainment and its wholly owned subsidiaries and have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“GAAP”). All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

**Fiscal year** — The Company’s fiscal year consists of 52 or 53 weeks ending on the Sunday after the Saturday closest to January 31. Fiscal years 2021, 2020 and 2019, which ended on January 30, 2022, January 31, 2021, and February 2, 2020, respectively, each contained 52 weeks. Each quarterly period has 13 weeks, except in a 53-week year when the fourth quarter has 14 weeks.

**Use of estimates** — The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and for the period then ended. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Cash and cash equivalents** — We consider transaction settlements in process from credit card companies and all highly-liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Our cash management system provides for the daily funding of all major bank disbursement accounts as checks are presented for payment. Under this system, outstanding checks in excess of the cash balances at certain banks creates book overdrafts. Book overdrafts of \$16,673 and \$8,168 are presented in “Accounts payable” in the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of January 30, 2022, and January 31, 2021, respectively. Changes in the book overdraft position are presented within “Net cash provided by operating activities” within the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. At the end of fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, the Company had no restricted cash.

Cash and cash equivalents are maintained with multiple financial institutions. Generally, these deposits may be redeemed upon demand and are maintained with financial institutions with reputable credit and therefore bear minimal credit risk. The Company maintains cash and cash equivalent balances that exceed federally insured limits with a number of financial institutions.

**Inventories** — Inventories consist of food, beverages, amusement merchandise and other supplies and are stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out method) or net realizable value. We record inventory reserves for obsolete and slow-moving inventory.

**Cloud-Based Computing Arrangements** — The Company defers application development stage costs for cloud-based computing arrangements and amortizes those costs over the related service (subscription) agreement. The unamortized cost is included in “Prepaid expenses” in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**Property and equipment** — Property and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method, based on the shorter of the estimated useful lives or the terms of the underlying leases of the related assets. Estimated depreciable lives for the categories of property and equipment follows:

|                                    | <b>Estimated Depreciable Lives<br/>(In Years)</b> |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Building and building improvements | 5-40  |
| Leasehold improvements             | 5-20  |
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment  | 3-10  |
| Games                              | 3-20  |

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Expenditures that extend the life, increase capacity of or improve the safety or the efficiency of the property and equipment are capitalized, whereas costs incurred to maintain the appearance and functionality of such assets are charged to repair and maintenance expense. Application development stage costs for significant internally developed software projects are capitalized and amortized as part of furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Interest cost on funds used during the acquisition period of significant capital assets are capitalized as part of the asset and depreciated. Gains and losses related to store property and equipment disposals are recorded in “Other store operating expenses” in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

We assess the potential impairment of our long-lived assets related to each store to be held and used in business, including property and equipment and right-of-use (“ROU”) assets, on an annual basis or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying values of these assets may not be recoverable. In determining the recoverability of the asset value, an analysis is performed at the individual store level, since this is the lowest level of identifiable cash flows and primarily includes an assessment of historical cash flows and other relevant factors and circumstances, including the maturity of the store, changes in the economic environment, unfavorable changes in legal factors or business climate and future operating plans. The more significant inputs used in determining our estimate of the projected undiscounted cash flows included future revenue growth and projected margins as well as the estimate of the remaining useful life of the assets. If the carrying amount is not recoverable, we record an impairment charge equal to the excess of the carrying amount over the fair value, which is estimated based on discounted projected future operating cash flows of the store over the remaining service life using a risk adjusted discount rate that is commensurate with the inherent risk.

During fiscal 2021, the Company recorded an impairment charge for its ROU assets of \$912 related to the abandonment of its corporate office and adjacent warehouse lease prior to the end of the respective lease agreement. During fiscal 2020, the Company recorded an impairment charge for its long-lived assets, including ROU assets, of \$6,746, primarily driven by the expected impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on future cash flows of specific stores. The Company also recorded an impairment loss and related contract termination costs of \$6,981 related to potential new store projects that were in the early stage of development at that same time, which is included in “Other store operating expenses” in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). Given the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 to our business, the projected undiscounted cash flows are subject to greater uncertainty than historically. If in the future we reduce our estimate of cash flow projections, we could be required to record additional impairment charges. No impairment charges were recognized in fiscal 2019.

**Goodwill and tradenames**— The carrying amount of goodwill is impacted by foreign currency translation adjustments. The foreign currency translation adjustment decreased goodwill by \$39 during fiscal 2020. Goodwill and tradenames which have an indefinite useful life, are not subject to amortization, and are evaluated for impairment annually or more frequently if an event occurs or circumstances change that would indicate that impairment may exist. Goodwill and tradenames are evaluated at the level of the Company’s single operating segment, which also represents the Company’s only reporting unit.

When evaluating goodwill and tradenames for impairment, the Company first performs a qualitative assessment to determine whether it is more likely than not that its reporting unit or tradenames are impaired. For fiscal year 2021, 2020 and 2019, there was no impairment to our goodwill or tradenames.

**Other assets and deferred charges, net** — Other assets and deferred charges, net consist primarily of intangible assets related to transferable liquor licenses and intellectual property licenses associated with some of our proprietary amusement offerings, and assets related to various deposits, the employee deferred compensation plan, and unamortized debt issuance costs on the revolving portion of our credit facility.

The balance of transferable liquor licenses was \$5,162 and \$5,213 at the end of fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, respectively. The costs of purchasing transferable liquor licenses through open markets in jurisdictions with a limited number of authorized liquor licenses are capitalized as indefinite-lived intangible assets and are tested for

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impairment annually by comparing the estimated fair value of each asset with their carrying amount. The unamortized balance of our intellectual license costs was \$1,264 and \$1,862 at the end of fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, respectively. Intellectual licenses are amortized over the respective term of the license agreements, with a weighted average term remaining of 2.3 years at the end of fiscal 2021. Amortization of intellectual licenses of \$598, \$575 and \$507 in fiscal 2021, fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019, respectively, is included in “Other store operating expenses” in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

The Company capitalizes certain costs incurred in connection with borrowings or establishment of credit facilities, and these costs are amortized as interest expense over the life of the borrowing or life of the related debt facility. Debt issuance costs on the revolving portion of our credit facility were \$3,971 and \$5,525 at the end of fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, respectively. Debt issuance costs on the senior secured notes are reported as a direct reduction from the carrying amount of our debt.

**Fair value of financial instruments** — Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date under current market conditions. In determining fair value, the accounting standards establish a three-level hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value as follows: Level One inputs are quoted prices available for identical assets or liabilities in active markets; Level Two inputs are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, including quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; and Level Three inputs are unobservable and reflect management’s own assumptions.

The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, accounts and notes receivable, accounts payable and other current liabilities approximate fair value because of their short-term nature. The fair value of the Company’s interest rate swap is determined based upon Level Two inputs which includes valuation models as reported by our counterparties and third-party valuation specialists. These valuation models are based on the present value of expected cash flows using forward rate curves. The fair value of borrowings under our revolving credit facility was \$62,114 as of January 31, 2021, and the fair value of our senior secured notes was \$456,204 and \$576,033 as of January 30, 2022, and January 31, 2021, respectively. The fair value of the Company’s debt is determined based on a discounted cash flow method, using a sector-specific yield curve based on market-derived, traded price data as of the measurement date, which we classify as a Level Two input within the fair value hierarchy.

**Interest rate swaps** — Effective February 28, 2019, the Company entered into three interest rate swap agreements to manage our exposure to interest rate movements on our variable rate credit facility. The agreements entitle the Company to receive at specified intervals, a variable rate of interest based on one-month LIBOR in exchange for the payment of a fixed rate of interest throughout the life of the agreements. The notional amount of the swap agreements, which mature August 17, 2022, totals \$350,000 and the fixed rate of interest for all agreements is 2.47%. The Company initially designated its interest rate swap agreements as a cash flow hedge and accounted for the underlying activity in accordance with hedge accounting. Prior to April 14, 2020, changes in the fair values of the interest rate swaps were recorded as a component of other comprehensive loss until the interest payments being hedged were recorded as interest expense, at which time the amounts in accumulated other comprehensive loss were reclassified as an adjustment to interest expense. Cash flows related to the interest rate swaps were included as a component of interest expense and in operating activities.

Effective April 14, 2020, the Company amended its existing credit facility agreement to obtain relief from its financial covenants, and as a result, the variable interest rate terms were modified to create an interest rate floor of 1.00%. Accordingly, and as a result of the then current forward interest rate curve, the Company discontinued the hedging relationship as of April 14, 2020 (de-designation date). Given the continued existence of the hedged interest payments, the Company is reclassifying its accumulated other comprehensive loss of \$17,609 as of the de-designation date into “Interest expense, net” using a straight-line approach over the remaining life of the originally designated hedging relationship, and the unamortized balance of \$4,088 as of the end of fiscal 2021 will be fully amortized within the next twelve months. Effective with the de-designation, any



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gain or loss on the derivatives are recognized in earnings in the period in which the change occurs. During fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, a gain of \$550 and a loss of \$1,729, respectively, was recognized, which is included in “Other store operating expenses” in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

Credit risk related to the failure of our counterparties to perform under the terms of the swap agreements is minimized by entering into transactions with carefully selected, credit-worthy parties and the fact that the swap contracts are distributed among several financial institutions to reduce the concentration of credit risk. Our swap agreements with our derivative counterparties contain a provision where if the Company defaults on any of its indebtedness, and repayment of the indebtedness has been accelerated, the Company could also be declared in default on its derivative obligations.

The following derivative instruments were outstanding for the fiscal years ended:

|  | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value       |                  |
|--|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  |                        | January 30, 2022 | January 31, 2021 |
| Derivatives designated as hedging instruments: |                        |                  |                  |
| Interest rate swaps                            | Accrued liabilities    | \$ 3,823         | \$ 8,350         |
| Interest rate swaps                            | Other liabilities      | —                | 4,416            |
| Total derivative liability                     |                        | <u>\$ 3,823</u>  | <u>\$ 12,766</u> |

The following table presents the activity in accumulated other comprehensive loss resulting from our derivative instruments for the fiscal years ended:

|   | January 30, 2022 | January 31, 2021 | February 2, 2020 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Loss recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income | \$ —             | \$ (7,602)       | \$ (11,454)      |
| Loss reclassified or amortized into interest expense      | \$ 7,547         | \$ 6,453         | \$ 969           |
| Income tax effect   | \$ (2,062)       | \$ 314           | \$ 2,864         |

**Revenue recognition** — Food and beverage revenues are recognized when payment is tendered at the point of sale as the performance obligation has been satisfied. Beginning in fiscal 2020, we began to offer our customers delivery services, which are fulfilled by third-party service providers. We recognize revenues at the gross amount, and delivery fees are included in “Other store operating expenses” in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). Amusement revenues are primarily recognized upon utilization of game play credits on Power Cards purchased and used by customers to activate video and redemption games. Redemption games allow customers to earn tickets, which may be redeemed for prizes in our WIN! area. We have deferred a portion of amusement revenues for the estimated unfulfilled performance obligations based on an estimated rate of future use by customers of unused game play credits and the material right provided to customers to redeem tickets in the future for prizes. We estimate the amount of deferred revenue based upon credits and tickets remaining on Power Cards, historic game play credit and ticket utilization patterns and estimates of the standalone selling prices of game play credits and the customer material right. The standalone selling price of the customer material right is estimated using an equivalent chip cost plus margin approach. For purposes of recognizing revenue, the total amount collected from each customer is then allocated between the two performance obligations based on the relative standalone selling price of each obligation.

Total deferred amusement revenue is included in “Accrued liabilities” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. During the fiscal year ended January 30, 2022, we recognized revenue of approximately \$49,700 related to the amount in deferred amusement revenue as of the end of fiscal 2020. During the fiscal year ended January 31, 2021, we recognized revenue of approximately \$20,100 related to the amount in deferred amusement revenue as of the end of fiscal 2019.

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We sell gift cards, which do not have expiration dates, and we do not deduct non-usage fees from outstanding gift card balances. The Company recognizes revenue from gift cards upon redemption by the customer. For unredeemed gift cards that the Company expects to be entitled to breakage and for which there is not a legal obligation to remit the unredeemed gift card balances to the relevant jurisdictions, the Company recognizes expected breakage as revenue in proportion to the pattern of redemption by the customers. The determination of the gift card breakage is based on the Company's specific historical redemption patterns. Recognized gift card breakage revenue is included in "Amusements and other revenues" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). The contract liability related to our gift cards is included in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. During the fiscal year ended January 30, 2022, we recognized revenue of approximately \$3,900 related to the amount in deferred gift card revenue as of the end of fiscal 2020, of which approximately \$1,390 was gift card breakage revenue. During the fiscal year ended January 31, 2021, we recognized revenue of approximately \$2,330 related to the amount in deferred gift card revenue as of the end of fiscal 2019, of which approximately \$570 was gift card breakage revenue.

Revenues are reported net of sales-related taxes collected from customers to be remitted to governmental taxing authorities. Sales tax collected is included in "Accrued liabilities" until the taxes are remitted to the appropriate taxing authorities. Historically, certain of our promotional programs include multiple performance obligations that are discounted from the standalone selling prices. We allocate the entire discount to the amusement performance obligation.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, the Company launched an enhanced loyalty program, wherein eligible customers who enroll in the program generally earn rewards based on the level of chips played. Earned rewards generally expire one to two months after they are issued. We defer revenue associated with the estimated selling prices of rewards earned, net of rewards we do not expect to be redeemed.

**Advertising costs** — Advertising production costs are expensed in the period when the advertising first takes place. Other advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising costs expensed were \$32,184, \$21,107, and \$44,834, in fiscal 2021, 2020 and 2019, respectively. Advertising costs are included in "Other store operating expenses" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

**Leases** — Our material operating leases consist of facility leases at our stores and our store support center. Operating leases also includes certain equipment leases that have a term in excess of one year. At contract inception, we determine whether a contract is, or contains, a lease by determining whether it conveys the right to control the use of the identified asset for a period of time. We recognize a lease liability representing the present value of lease payments not yet paid and a corresponding ROU asset as of the lease commencement date. Operating lease ROU assets are initially and subsequently measured throughout the lease term at the carrying amount of the lease liability adjusted for lease incentives, initial direct costs, prepayments or accrued lease payments and impairment of ROU assets, if any. We assess lease classification at commencement and reassess lease classification subsequent to commencement upon a change to the expected lease term or modification of the contract. Generally, the Company's lease contracts do not provide a readily determinable implicit rate, and therefore, the Company uses an estimated incremental borrowing rate as of the commencement date in determining the present value of lease payments. The Company uses judgment in determining its incremental borrowing rate, which includes selecting a yield curve based on a hypothetical credit rating.

Our leases typically have initial terms ranging from ten to twenty years and most include options to extend the leases for one or more 5-year periods. Generally, the lease term includes the noncancelable period of the lease inclusive of reasonably certain renewal periods up to a term of twenty years. The Company's lease agreements generally contain rent holidays and/or escalating rent clauses. Lease cost is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The Company is generally obligated for the cost of property taxes, insurance, and maintenance of the leased assets, which are often variable lease payments. Our leases typically provide for a fixed base rent plus contingent rent to be determined as a percentage of sales greater than certain specified target amounts. Contingent rental payments, when considered probable, are recognized as variable lease expenses. The

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Company accounts for the lease components and non-lease components, primarily fixed maintenance, for all leases, as a single lease component for new and modified leases. Our lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees or material restrictive covenants.

Tenant incentives used to fund leasehold improvements are recognized when earned and reduce our ROU asset related to the lease. Tenant incentives are amortized through the ROU asset as reductions of expense over the lease term. The balance of leasehold improvement incentive receivables is reflected as a reduction of the current portion of operating lease liabilities. We consider the concentration of credit risk for tenant improvement allowance receivables from landlords to be minimal due the payment histories and general financial condition of our landlords.

A total of 126 initial rent relief agreements related to our operating locations and former corporate headquarters were executed during fiscal 2020, and a second phase of negotiations, generally seeking to delay or extend the terms of deferral pay back periods and/or provide rent relief beyond the periods in the initial agreements, was substantially completed by the end of the Company's second quarter of fiscal 2021 and resulted in 99 additional rent relief agreements. The Company has elected to apply the practical expedient to account for lease concessions and deferrals resulting directly from COVID-19 as though the enforceable rights and obligations to the deferrals existed in the respective contracts at lease inception and will not account for the concessions as lease modifications unless the concession results in a substantial increase in the Company's obligations. A total of 208 of our 225 rent relief agreements qualified for this accounting election, and the remaining agreements were treated as lease modifications, primarily due to a significant extension of the lease term. The Company has bifurcated our current operating lease liabilities into the portion that remains subject to accretion and the portion that is accounted for as a deferral of payments or as short payments. The current portion of deferred occupancy costs or short pays is included in "Accrued liabilities" and the balance, or \$8,434 and \$16,243 as of January 30, 2022, and January 31, 2021, respectively, is included in "Other liabilities" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Operating leases are included within the "Operating lease right of use assets", "Accrued liabilities" and "Operating lease liabilities" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Operating lease payments are classified as cash flows from operating activities with ROU asset amortization and the change in the lease liability combined within "Other liabilities" in the reconciliation of net income to cash flows provided by operating activities in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

**Self-insurance programs** — The Company utilizes a self-insurance plan for health, general liability and workers' compensation coverage. To limit our exposure to losses, we maintain stop-loss coverage through third-party insurers. Losses are accrued based on the Company's historical claims experience and case losses, assisted by independent third-party actuaries. The estimated cost to settle reported claims and incurred but unreported claims is included in "Accrued liabilities" and "Other liabilities" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**Pre-opening costs** — Pre-opening costs include costs associated with the opening and organizing of new stores, including the cost of pre-opening rent, training, relocation, recruiting and travel costs for team members engaged in such pre-opening activities. All pre-opening costs are expensed as incurred.

**Income taxes** — Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized based upon anticipated future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying value of assets and liabilities and their respective tax basis. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using current enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which we expect the temporary differences to reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred taxes is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. We routinely evaluate the likelihood of realizing the benefit of our deferred tax assets and may record a valuation allowance if, based on all available evidence, we determine that it is more likely than not that some portion of the tax benefit will not be realized.

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The calculation of tax liabilities involves judgment and evaluation of uncertainties in the interpretation of federal and state tax regulations. We evaluate our exposures associated with our various tax filing positions and recognize a tax benefit from an uncertain tax position only if it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained on examination by the taxing authorities based on the technical merits of the position. For uncertain tax positions that do not meet this threshold, we have established accruals for taxes that may become payable in future years as a result of audits by tax authorities. Tax accruals are adjusted as events occur that affect the potential liability for taxes such as the expiration of statutes of limitations, conclusion of tax audits, identification of additional exposure based on current calculations, identification of new issues, or the issuance of statutory or administrative guidance or rendering of a court decision affecting a certain issue.

**Foreign currency** — Foreign currency translation adjustments represent the unrealized impact of translating the financial statements of our Canadian stores from their respective functional currency (Canadian dollars) to U.S. dollars and are reported as a component of comprehensive income and recorded in “Accumulated other comprehensive loss” on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Gains and losses from foreign currency transactions are recognized in “Other store operating expenses” in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

**Earnings per share** — Basic net income (loss) per share is computed by dividing net income (loss) available to common shareholders by the basic weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the reporting period. Diluted net income (loss) per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. For the calculation of diluted net income (loss) per share, the basic weighted average shares outstanding is increased by the dilutive effect of stock options and restricted share awards. Stock options and restricted share awards with an anti-dilutive effect are not included in the diluted net income (loss) per share calculation. For fiscal 2021, 2020 and fiscal 2019, we excluded approximately 170,000, 1,200,000, and 150,000 anti-dilutive awards from the calculation. Basic weighted average shares outstanding are reconciled to diluted weighted average shares outstanding as follows

|  | <u>January 30, 2022</u> | <u>January 31, 2021</u> | <u>February 2, 2020</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Basic weighted average shares outstanding      | 48,142,090              | 43,549,887              | 33,450,217              |
| Weighted average dilutive impact of awards (1) | 1,121,630               | —                       | 649,161                 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding    | 49,263,720              | 43,549,887              | 34,099,378              |

(1) Amounts exclude all potential common and common equivalent shares for periods when there is a net loss.

**Recently adopted accounting guidance** — In December 2019, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2019-12, Income Taxes (Topic 740): Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes, which removes certain exceptions related to the approach for intraperiod tax allocations, the calculation of income taxes in interim periods, and the recognition of deferred taxes for taxable goodwill. The Company adopted this standard as of the beginning of fiscal year 2021, and the adoption did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

**Recent accounting pronouncements** — In March 2020, the FASB issued ASU 2020-04, Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848): Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Reform on Financial Reporting, which provides temporary optional expedients and exceptions to the current guidance for contract modifications and hedging relationships through December 31, 2022, that reference LIBOR or another reference rate expected to be discontinued because of reference rate reform. A contract modification resulting from reference rate reform may be accounted for as a continuation of the existing contract rather than the creation of a new contract. Additionally, changes in the critical terms of hedging relationships, caused by reference rate reform, should not result in the de-designation of the instrument, provided certain criteria are met. Although the Company has swap agreements based on LIBOR rates, the guidance is not expected to have an impact on our consolidated financial statements due to the de-designation of our hedging relationships in fiscal 2020.

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### Note 2: Inventories

Inventories consist of the following:

|   | January 30, 2022 | January 31, 2021 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Operating store—food and beverage       | \$ 7,281         | \$ 4,175         |
| Operating store—amusement               | 12,721           | 8,640            |
| Corporate—amusement, supplies and other | 20,317           | 10,992           |
|   | <u>\$ 40,319</u> | <u>\$ 23,807</u> |

Amusement inventory includes electronics, plush toys and small novelty and other items used as redemption prizes for certain games, as well as supplies needed for Midway operations.

### Note 3: Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consist of the following:

|                                     | January 30, 2022  | January 31, 2021  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Land                                | \$ 12,302         | \$ 12,302         |
| Buildings and building improvements | 42,312            | 37,417            |
| Leasehold improvements              | 830,459           | 805,229           |
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment   | 459,713           | 430,331           |
| Games                               | 298,327           | 295,170           |
| Construction in progress            | 44,020            | 33,382            |
| Total cost                          | <u>1,687,133</u>  | <u>1,613,831</u>  |
| Accumulated depreciation            | (908,536)         | (798,804)         |
| Property and equipment, net         | <u>\$ 778,597</u> | <u>\$ 815,027</u> |

Depreciation expense totaled \$138,329 for fiscal 2021, \$138,789 for fiscal 2020, and \$132,399 for fiscal 2019.

### Note 4: Accrued Liabilities

Accrued liabilities consist of the following as of the fiscal years ended:

|  | January 30, 2022  | January 31, 2021  |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Deferred amusement revenue   | \$ 92,961         | \$ 78,852         |
| Current portion of operating lease liabilities, net <sup>(1)</sup> | 45,445            | 46,471            |
| Compensation and benefits  | 27,447            | 13,846            |
| Current portion of deferred occupancy costs                        | 19,164            | 36,121            |
| Deferred gift card revenue   | 11,855            | 10,918            |
| Accrued interest   | 8,629             | 11,321            |
| Property taxes   | 6,450             | 8,149             |
| Current portion of long-term insurance                             | 5,700             | 5,100             |
| Utilities  | 5,262             | 4,151             |
| Sales and use taxes  | 4,465             | 1,385             |
| Current portion of derivatives                                     | 3,823             | 8,350             |
| Customer deposits  | 3,471             | 1,373             |
| Other (Note 10)  | 13,821            | 8,753             |
| Total accrued liabilities  | <u>\$ 248,493</u> | <u>\$ 234,790</u> |

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- (1) The balance of leasehold incentive receivables of \$10,064 and \$8,763 as of January 30, 2022, and January 31, 2021, respectively, is reflected as a reduction of the current portion of operating lease liabilities.

### **Note 5: Debt**

Long-term debt consists of the following:

|                               | <u>January 30, 2022</u> | <u>January 31, 2021</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Credit Facility—revolver      | \$ —                    | \$ 60,000               |
| Senior secured notes          | 440,000                 | 550,000                 |
| <b>Total debt outstanding</b> | <u>440,000</u>          | <u>610,000</u>          |
| Less debt issuance costs      | (8,605)                 | (13,612)                |
| <b>Long-term debt, net</b>    | <u>\$ 431,395</u>       | <u>\$ 596,388</u>       |

On October 27, 2020, the Company issued \$550,000 aggregate principal amount of 7.625% senior secured notes (the “Notes”). Interest on the Notes accrues from October 27, 2020, payable in arrears on November 1 and May 1 of each year, commencing on May 1, 2021. The Notes mature on November 1, 2025, unless earlier redeemed, and are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the related indenture. Prior to November 1, 2022, but not more than once during any twelve-month period commencing with the issue date of the Notes, the Company may redeem up to 10% of the original principal amount of the Notes at a redemption price of 103% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, at the redemption date. After November 1, 2022, the Company may redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, at certain specified redemption prices, plus accrued and unpaid interest, at the redemption date. The Notes were issued by D&B Inc and are unconditionally guaranteed by D&B Holdings and certain of D&B Inc’s existing and future wholly owned material domestic subsidiaries, which is substantially the same as the guarantors of the Company’s existing credit facility.

The first amendment to the existing credit facility, effective April 14, 2020, increased the interest rate spread on variable rate debt to 2.00% plus a LIBOR floor of 1.00%. Concurrent and subject to the issuance of the Notes, the Company executed a second amendment, which included relief from testing compliance with certain financial covenants until the last day of the fiscal quarter ending on May 1, 2022. During the financial covenant suspension period the Company is required to maintain a minimum liquidity (primarily availability under the credit facility) of \$150,000. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021, the Company ended this financial covenant suspension period. The second amendment extended the maturity of the \$500,000 revolving portion of the facility from August 17, 2022, to August 17, 2024, increased the interest rate spread to 4.00%, and instituted a 1.00% utilization fee due at maturity. After the first quarter of fiscal 2022, when the financial covenant suspension increased pricing period ends, the interest rate spread ranges from 1.25% to 3.00% and the utilization fee will cease.

The second amendment also terminated the term loan portion of the credit facility, triggering payment of \$1,900 of lender debt costs, and the Company recorded a loss of \$904 related to the unamortized debt costs associated with the term portion of the credit facility. The Company used the proceeds of the Notes offering, along with cash on hand, to repay the \$255,000 principal balance of the term loan facility, \$463,000 of borrowings under the revolving credit facility, and related accrued interest. The Company incurred debt costs of \$18,300 associated with the issuance of the Notes and the second amendment to the credit facility, which are being amortized over the respective terms.

During fiscal 2021, the Company redeemed a total of \$110,000 outstanding principal amount of the Notes in two separate transactions. In connection with the early redemption of the Notes, the Company paid prepayment premiums of \$3,300, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemptions, pursuant to the terms of the indenture governing the Notes. Additionally, the early redemptions of the Notes resulted in a loss on extinguishment of approximately \$2,300 related to a proportionate amount of unamortized issuance costs.

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For fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, the Company's weighted average interest rate on outstanding borrowings was 10.34% and 5.40%, respectively. The rate has increased due to the issuance of the Notes and the second amendment to the credit facility. As of January 30, 2022, we had letters of credit outstanding of \$7,505 and an unused commitment balance of \$492,495 under the revolving credit facility. Our credit facility and Notes contain restrictive covenants that, among other things, place certain limitations on our ability to incur additional indebtedness, make loans or advances to subsidiaries and other entities, pay dividends, acquire other businesses or sell assets. As of January 30, 2022, the Company was in compliance with the financial covenants of our credit facility and all the restrictive covenants of the Notes and credit facility.

**Future debt obligations** — Below is our future debt principal payment obligations as of January 30, 2022 by fiscal year:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2025                  | \$ 440,000        |
| Total future payments | <u>\$ 440,000</u> |

**Interest expense, net** — The following tables set forth our recorded interest expense, net:

|  | <u>January 30, 2022</u> | <u>January 31, 2021</u> | <u>February 2, 2020</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Interest expense on debt                 | \$ 43,463               | \$ 29,124               | \$ 20,277               |
| Interest associated with swap agreements | 7,547                   | 6,453                   | 969                     |
| Amortization of issuance cost            | 4,244                   | 2,184                   | 792                     |
| Interest income                          | —                       | (22)                    | (119)                   |
| Capitalized interest                     | (1,344)                 | (849)                   | (982)                   |
| Total interest expense, net              | <u>\$ 53,910</u>        | <u>\$ 36,890</u>        | <u>\$ 20,937</u>        |

## Note 6: Income Taxes

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") was signed into law. Intended to provide economic relief to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the CARES Act includes provisions, among others, allowing for the carryback of net operating losses generated in fiscal 2018, 2019 and 2020 and technical amendments regarding the expensing of qualified improvement property. The application of the technical amendments made by the CARES Act to qualified improvement property resulted in additional tax net operating losses which were carried back from fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019 to years with a higher federal corporate income tax rate. During the second quarter of fiscal 2021, the Company filed the fiscal 2020 carryback claims for federal tax refunds of approximately \$57,400. Due to government delays in processing these claims, the majority of these funds are expected to be received in fiscal 2022.

Additionally, the CARES Act, in efforts to enhance business' liquidity, provided for the deferral of the employer-paid portion of social security taxes during fiscal 2020. The Company elected to defer approximately \$4,800 of employer-paid portion of social security taxes, with 50% remitted in fiscal 2021 and the remainder due in fiscal 2022.

The following table sets forth our income tax provision:

|                         | <u>January 30, 2022</u> | <u>January 31, 2021</u> | <u>February 2, 2020</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current provision:      |                         |                         |                         |
| Federal                 | \$ 21,899               | \$ (78,629)             | \$ 11,744               |
| State and local         | 4,577                   | (1,360)                 | 8,562                   |
| Foreign                 | 333                     | (78)                    | 100                     |
| Total current provision | <u>26,809</u>           | <u>(80,067)</u>         | <u>20,406</u>           |



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|                                    | January 30, 2022 | January 31, 2021   | February 2, 2020 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Deferred provision (benefit):      |                  |                    |                  |
| Federal                            | (2,354)          | (5,415)            | 7,109            |
| State and local                    | (5,441)          | 1,951              | (365)            |
| Foreign                            | —                | 99                 | (271)            |
| Total deferred provision (benefit) | <u>(7,795)</u>   | <u>(3,365)</u>     | <u>6,473</u>     |
| Provision for income taxes         | <u>\$ 19,014</u> | <u>\$ (83,432)</u> | <u>\$ 26,879</u> |

The following table reconciles the effective tax rate to the federal income tax rate:

|  | January 30, 2022 | January 31, 2021 | February 2, 2020 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal income tax rate                              | 21.0%            | 21.0%            | 21.0%            |
| State and local income taxes, net of federal benefit | 5.0%             | 2.7%             | 5.4%             |
| Permanent differences                                | 2.0%             | (0.2)%           | 1.5%             |
| Tax credits  | (4.9)%           | 0.7%             | (6.4)%           |
| Share-based compensation                             | (3.6)%           | (0.2)%           | (0.9)%           |
| Impact of net operating loss carryback               | — %              | 7.5%             | — %              |
| Other  | (4.6)%           | (2.8)%           | 0.5%             |
| Effective tax rate                                   | <u>14.9%</u>     | <u>28.7%</u>     | <u>21.1%</u>     |

Components of the deferred income tax liability, net consist of the following:

|  | January 30, 2022       | January 31, 2021       |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Deferred tax assets:                                 |                        |                        |
| Deferred revenue                                     | \$ 27,577              | \$ 24,136              |
| Operating lease liability                            | 380,145                | 383,378                |
| Accrued liabilities                                  | 2,961                  | 1,332                  |
| Workers compensation and general liability insurance | 4,068                  | 3,923                  |
| Share-based compensation                             | 7,614                  | 7,236                  |
| Hedging transactions                                 | 1,044                  | 3,488                  |
| Net operating loss carryovers                        | 8,028                  | 10,303                 |
| Tax credit carryovers                                | 943                    | 3,054                  |
| Indirect benefit of unrecognized tax benefits        | 529                    | 639                    |
| Other  | 4,173                  | 5,549                  |
| Subtotal   | <u>437,082</u>         | <u>443,038</u>         |
| Less: valuation allowance                            | <u>(8,501)</u>         | <u>(13,747)</u>        |
| Total deferred tax assets                            | <u>\$ 428,581</u>      | <u>\$ 429,291</u>      |
| Deferred tax liabilities:                            |                        |                        |
| Trademark/tradename                                  | \$ 21,583              | \$ 21,583              |
| Property and equipment                               | 121,516                | 127,969                |
| Operating lease right of use asset                   | 287,255                | 287,030                |
| Other  | 278                    | 493                    |
| Total deferred tax liabilities                       | <u>\$ 430,632</u>      | <u>\$ 437,075</u>      |
| <b>Deferred tax liability, net</b>                   | <u><b>\$ 2,051</b></u> | <u><b>\$ 7,784</b></u> |

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As of January 30, 2022, we had \$99,004 of state net operating loss carryforwards, which will begin to expire in 2022, foreign operating loss carryforwards of \$9,535, which will begin to expire in 2030, and foreign tax credit carryovers of \$922, which will begin to expire in 2028.

During fiscal 2021, the decrease in the valuation allowance of \$5,246 primarily relates to the use of available net operating loss carryforwards and the release of previously established allowance for certain net operating loss carryforwards due to improved operating performance. During fiscal 2020, the increase in the valuation allowance of \$11,127 primarily relates to the increase in net operating loss carryovers.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits follows:

|   | <u>January 30, 2022</u> | <u>January 31, 2021</u> | <u>February 2, 2020</u> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Balance at beginning of year                | \$ 2,564                | \$ 2,080                | \$ 2,333                |
| Additions for tax positions of prior years  | 95                      | 28                      | 463                     |
| Reductions for tax positions of prior years | —                       | —                       | (44)                    |
| Additions for tax positions of current year | 757                     | 660                     | 450                     |
| Settlements with taxing authorities         | —                       | —                       | (390)                   |
| Lapse of statute of limitations             | (330)                   | (204)                   | (732)                   |
| Balance at end of year                      | <u>\$ 3,086</u>         | <u>\$ 2,564</u>         | <u>\$ 2,080</u>         |

The January 30, 2022 balance of unrecognized tax benefits includes \$2,800, that if recognized, would affect our effective tax rate. At January 30, 2022, and January 31, 2021, we had accrued interest and penalties of \$446 and \$412, respectively. The Company recorded accrued interest related to the unrecognized tax benefits and penalties as a component of the provision for income taxes recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

In the next twelve months, it is reasonably possible that our unrecognized tax benefits could change due to the resolution of certain tax matters, including payments on those tax matters or due to lapse of the statute of limitations. These resolutions and payments could reduce our unrecognized tax benefits by up to approximately \$382.

We file consolidated income tax returns with all our domestic subsidiaries, which are periodically audited by various federal, state and foreign jurisdictions. We are generally no longer subject to federal, state, or foreign income tax examinations for years prior to 2014.

The Company recorded excess tax expense (benefits) of \$(6,994), \$437, and \$(1,201), in fiscal 2021, fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019, respectively, to the provision for income taxes in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

### **Note 7: Leases**

The components of lease expense, including variable lease costs primarily consisting of common area maintenance charges and property taxes, are as follows:

|                                      | <u>January 30, 2022</u> | <u>January 31, 2021</u> | <u>February 2, 2020</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Operating lease cost                 | \$ 134,910              | \$132,658               | \$ 124,065              |
| Variable lease cost                  | 30,122                  | 25,360                  | 30,009                  |
| Short-term lease cost <sup>(1)</sup> | 549                     | 457                     | 435                     |
| Total lease cost                     | <u>\$ 165,581</u>       | <u>\$ 158,475</u>       | <u>\$ 154,509</u>       |

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- (1) We have elected the short-term lease recognition exemption for all applicable classes of underlying assets. Leases with an initial term of 12 months or less, that do not include a purchase option that we are reasonably certain to exercise, are not recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Operating lease cost, variable lease cost and short-term lease cost related primarily to our facilities is included in “Other store operating expenses” for our operating stores, “Pre-opening costs” for our stores not yet operating, or “General and administrative expenses” for our former corporate headquarters and new store support center, in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information related to leases were as follows:

|  | <u>January 30, 2022</u> | <u>January 31, 2021</u> | <u>February 2, 2020</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash paid for operating lease liabilities  | \$ 157,197              | \$ 77,292               | \$ 123,748              |
| ROU assets obtained in exchange for new operating lease liabilities <sup>(1)</sup> | \$ 72,559               | \$ 98,218               | \$ 220,648              |
| Weighted-average remaining lease term—operating leases (in years)                  | 14.2                    | 14.8                    | 15.7                    |
| Weighted-average discount rate—operating leases                                    | 6.02%                   | 5.94%                   | 5.90%                   |

- (1) Excludes the transition adjustment at adoption of Topic 842 in fiscal 2019.

Minimum future maturities of operating lease liabilities were as follows as of January 30, 2022, by fiscal year:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 2022   | \$ 134,011          |
| 2023   | 143,762             |
| 2024   | 143,431             |
| 2025   | 144,305             |
| 2026   | 145,453             |
| Thereafter                                   | 1,333,575           |
| Total future operating lease liability       | \$ 2,044,537        |
| Less: interest                               | (711,489)           |
| Present value of operating lease liabilities | <u>\$ 1,333,048</u> |

Operating lease payments in the table above includes minimum lease payments for four future sites for which the leases have commenced. Operating lease payments exclude approximately \$105,000 of minimum lease payments for five executed facility leases which have not yet commenced.

## **Note 8: Stockholders' Equity**

### ***Shareholder rights plan***

Effective March 18, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Company adopted a 364-day duration Shareholder Rights Plan (the “Rights Plan”) and declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right for each outstanding share of common stock to shareholders of record on March 30, 2020 to purchase from the Company one one-ten thousandth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company for an exercise price of \$45.00, once the rights become exercisable, subject to adjustment as provided in the related rights agreement. The Rights Plan expired on March 17, 2021.

### ***Sale of common stock***

During fiscal 2020, the Company sold 16,743,352 shares of its common stock at an average price of \$11.08 per share, for proceeds of \$182,207, net of offering costs.

### ***Share repurchases and cash dividends***

On December 6, 2021, our Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program, under which the Company may repurchase shares on the private market, through privately negotiated transactions and through trading plans. The share repurchase program may be modified, suspended, or discontinued at any time. The share repurchase authorization limit is \$100,000 and the authorization expires at the end of fiscal 2022. As a result of the impacts to our business arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, share purchases and dividend payments were indefinitely suspended during fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020, and the previous share repurchase program expired at the end of fiscal 2020. During fiscal 2019, the Company purchased 7,116,585 shares of stock for \$297,317. Our Board of Directors authorized and declared quarterly cash dividends totaling \$0.62 per share of common stock during fiscal 2019. The fiscal 2019 fourth quarter dividend was paid in the first quarter of fiscal 2020.

The Company treats shares withheld for tax purposes on behalf of our employees in connection with the vesting of restricted stock units as common stock repurchases because they reduce the number of shares that would have been issued upon vesting. These withheld shares of common stock were not considered common stock repurchases under the share repurchase plan. During the fiscal year ended 2021, 2020 and 2019, we withheld 231,451, 58,715, and 11,536 shares of common stock to satisfy \$9,465, \$929, and \$595 of employees' tax obligations, respectively. The share activity in fiscal 2020 includes the settlements of \$2,517 cash obligations through the issuance of 160,540 shares of common stock.

### ***Share-based compensation***

The Company maintains an equity incentive plan under which it may grant awards denominated in the Company's common stock or units of the Company's common stock, as well as cash variable compensation awards. The Company's long-term incentive compensation provides awards to executive and management personnel as well as directors. Prior to October 2014, we issued share-based awards under our 2010 Stock Incentive Plan, and all outstanding grants under this plan are fully vested. Share-based awards granted after October 2014 were issued pursuant to the terms of our 2014 Stock Incentive Plan. We may grant stock option or restricted stock units to executive and management personnel as well as directors. Options granted to employees generally become exercisable ratably over a three-year period from the grant date. Performance-based restricted stock units and market stock units ("MSU's) awarded to employees generally either vest ratably over three years or fully vest after three years, subject to the achievement of specified performance or market conditions, as applicable. Time-based restricted stock units have various service periods not exceeding five years.

Options granted under both plans terminate on the ten-year anniversary of the grants. Stock option awards generally provide continued vesting, in the event of termination, for employees that reach age 60 or greater and have at least ten years of service or for employees that reach age 65 ("retired employees"). Unvested stock options, and restricted stock units are generally forfeited by employees who terminate prior to vesting and prorated for retired employees.

Each share granted subject to a stock option award or time-based restricted stock unit award reduces the number of shares available under our stock incentive plans by one share. Each share granted subject to a performance restricted stock unit or market stock unit award reduces the number of shares available under our stock incentive plans by a range of one share if the target performance or market condition is achieved, up to a maximum of two shares for performance or market condition achieved above target and a minimum of no shares if performance or market condition achieved is below a minimum threshold target. On June 23, 2020, shareholders approved a proposal to amend the 2014 Stock Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares available for awards to 6,100,000 shares. The number of unissued common shares reserved for future grants under the 2014 Stock Incentive Plan is approximately 3,600,000 as of January 30, 2022. The Company satisfies stock option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units with newly issued shares.

The grant date fair value of our stock option awards has been determined using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. The Black-Scholes option valuation model uses assumptions of expected volatility, the expected dividend yield of our stock, the expected term of the awards and the risk-free interest rate, as well as an

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estimated fair value of our common stock. Fair value valuation analyses were prepared by an independent third-party valuation firm, utilizing the market-determined share price. Since our stock had not been publicly traded prior to our IPO, the expected volatility was based on an average of the historical volatility of certain of our competitors' stocks over the expected term of the share-based awards with the calculation placing more weight on company-specific volatilities each year thereafter. The dividend yield assumption was based on our history. The simplified method was used to estimate the expected term of share-based awards. This method was used because the Company does not have enough historical option activity to derive an expected life. The risk-free interest rate was based on the implied yield on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon issues with a remaining term equivalent to the expected term. No options were granted during fiscal 2021 or fiscal 2020. The significant assumptions used in determining the underlying fair value of the weighted-average options granted in fiscal 2019 were as follows:

|  | <b>Fiscal<br/>2019</b> |
|--|------------------------|
| Volatility                             | 34.2%                  |
| Risk free interest rate                | 2.34%                  |
| Expected dividend yield                | 1.15%                  |
| Expected term—in years                 | 6.0                    |
| Weighted average grant-date fair value | \$16.93                |

Based on the terms and conditions of our MSU awards, the grant date fair value of the MSU's was determined using a Monte-Carlo simulation model, which simulated the Company's stock price over the performance period. During fiscal 2021, the average volatility assumption was 76.9% and the risk-free interest rate used to discount the value of the award was 0.24%. During fiscal 2020, the average volatility assumption was 126.2% and the risk-free interest rate used to discount the value of the award was 0.16%. The dividend yield was zero as the Company has suspended dividends as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Compensation expense related to stock options with only service conditions (time-based) is recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for each separately vesting portion of the award or to the date on which retirement eligibility is achieved, if shorter. Compensation expense related to stock option plans was \$431, \$1,318, and \$3,010 during the fiscal years ended January 30, 2022, January 31, 2021, and February 2, 2020, respectively.

Compensation expense for time-based restricted stock units is based on the market price of the shares underlying the awards on the grant date. Compensation expense for performance-based restricted stock units reflects the estimated probability that performance conditions at target or above will be met. Restricted stock units are expensed ratably over the service period. The effect of market conditions is considered in determining the grant date fair value of MSU awards, which is not subsequently revised based on actual performance. We recorded compensation expense related to our restricted stock unit awards of \$12,041, \$5,667, and \$3,847 during the fiscal years ended January 30, 2022, January 31, 2021, and February 2, 2020, respectively.

Compensation expense related to stock options and restricted stock units is included in "General and administrative expenses" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). Forfeitures are recorded as they occur.

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Transactions related to stock option awards during fiscal 2021 were as follows:

|                                 | <u>2014 Stock Incentive Plan</u> |  | <u>2010 Stock Incentive Plan</u> |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
|                                 | <u>Number of Options</u>         | <u>Weighted Average Exercise Price</u> | <u>Number of Options</u>         | <u>Weighted Average Exercise Price</u> |
| Outstanding at January 31, 2021 | 1,231,601                        | \$ 36.77                               | 173,563                          | \$ 7.51                                |
| Exercised                       | (270,976)                        | 16.36                                  | (100,009)                        | 6.90                                   |
| Forfeited                       | (27,246)                         | 43.78                                  | —                                | —                                      |
| Outstanding at January 30, 2022 | 933,379                          | 42.50                                  | 73,554                           | 8.33                                   |
| Exercisable at January 30, 2022 | 872,895                          | \$ 41.86                               | 73,554                           | \$ 8.33                                |

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 was \$10,358, \$963, and \$3,968, respectively. The unrecognized expense related to our stock option plan totaled approximately \$64 as of January 30, 2022 and will be expensed over a weighted average of 0.2 years. For options outstanding as of January 30, 2022, the weighted average remaining contractual life was 4.8 years and the aggregate intrinsic value was \$3,800. For options exercisable as of January 30, 2022, the weighted average remaining contractual life was 4.6 years and the aggregate intrinsic value was \$3,800.

Transactions related to restricted stock unit awards during fiscal 2021 were as follows:

|                                      | <u>Shares</u> | <u>Weighted Avg Grant Date Fair Value</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|
|                                      |               |   |
| Outstanding at January 31, 2021      | 1,116,341     | \$ 17.32                                  |
| Granted                              | 311,759       | 47.42                                     |
| Change in units based on performance | 362,491       | 15.30                                     |
| Vested                               | (703,795)     | 16.23                                     |
| Forfeited                            | (163,997)     | 32.24                                     |
| Outstanding at January 30, 2022      | 922,799       | \$ 24.88                                  |

The weighted average grant-date fair values of restricted stock units granted during fiscal 2021, 2020 and 2019 were \$47.42, \$12.75, and \$51.44, respectively. The total fair value of restricted stock units vested during fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 was approximately \$29,260, \$1,518, and \$5,259, respectively. The unrecognized expense related to our restricted stock units was approximately \$7,976 as of January 30, 2022, which will be expensed over a weighted average of 1.6 years.

**Note 9: Employee Benefit Plans**

We maintain voluntary defined contribution plans, both qualified and non-qualified, covering eligible employees as defined in the plan documents. Participating employees may elect to defer and contribute a portion of their eligible compensation to the plans up to limits stated in the plan documents, not to exceed the dollar amounts set by applicable laws. The Company may match a specified percentage of employee contributions, as approved, up to a maximum of 6% of eligible employee compensation, as defined. As a result of the impacts to our business arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Company suspended matching of employee contributions during fiscal 2020 and the first half of fiscal 2021. The Company's match was \$714, \$0, and \$975, for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively, which was expensed as incurred.

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The non-qualified deferred compensation plan assets are invested through a rabbi trust. Assets in the rabbi trust are invested in certain mutual funds that cover an investment spectrum ranging from equities to money market instruments and are available to satisfy the claims of our creditors in the event of bankruptcy or insolvency. These mutual funds have published market prices and are reported at fair value using quoted prices available on identical assets and liabilities in active markets, representing Level One assets as defined by GAAP. Deferred compensation plan assets of \$10,587 and \$10,115, as of January 30, 2022 and January 31, 2021, respectively, are included in “Other assets and deferred charges” and the offsetting deferred compensation plan liabilities are included in “Other liabilities” in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

### **Note 10: Commitments and Contingencies**

We are subject to certain legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of our business, including claims alleging violations of federal and state law regarding workplace and employment matters, discrimination, slip-and-fall and other customer-related incidents and similar matters. In the opinion of management, based upon consultation with legal counsel, the amount of ultimate liability, with respect to such legal proceedings and claims will not materially affect the consolidated results of our operations or our financial condition. Legal costs related to such claims are expensed as incurred.

The Company is a defendant in several lawsuits filed in courts in California alleging violations of California Business and Professions Code, industry wage orders, wage-and-hour laws and rules and regulations pertaining primarily to the failure to pay proper regular and overtime wages, failure to pay for missed meals and rest periods, pay stub violations, failure to pay all wages due at the time of termination and other employment related claims (the “California Cases”). Some of the California Cases purport or may be determined to be class actions or Private Attorneys General Act representative actions and seek substantial damages and penalties. The Company estimated and accrued for the most likely amount of loss during fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2020. During fiscal 2020, the Company settled a portion of the cases at the approximate amount estimated. For the remaining cases, the Company’s assessments are based on assumptions that have been deemed reasonable by management, but that may prove to be incomplete or inaccurate, and unanticipated events and circumstances may occur that might cause the Company to change those estimates and assumptions. Management’s assessment of these California Cases, as well as other lawsuits, could change because of future determinations or the discovery of facts that are not presently known. Accordingly, the ultimate costs of resolving these cases may be substantially higher or lower than estimated. The Company continues to aggressively defend the remaining cases.

We are subject to the terms of a settlement agreement with the Federal Trade Commission that requires us, on an ongoing basis, to establish, implement, and maintain a comprehensive information security program that is reasonably designed to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal information collected from or about consumers. The agreement does not require us to pay any fines or other monetary assessments and we do not believe that the terms of the agreement will have a material adverse effect on our business, operations, or financial performance.



**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

This Employment Agreement (this "Agreement") is entered into on the dates signed below but will become effective January 1, 2022 (the "Effective Date"), between Dave & Buster's Management Corporation, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("D&B Management"), Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("D&B"), and Michael Quartieri (the "Employee"). D&B Management and D&B are collectively referred to herein as the "Company." D&B Management, D&B and the Employee are collectively referred to herein as the "Parties".

**WHEREAS**, as of the Effective Date, D&B Management shall employ Employee and D&B agrees that Employee shall serve as its Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer;

**WHEREAS**, the Parties acknowledge and agree that the services of the Employee are of a special and unique character, and in the performance of duties for the Company, the Employee has been and will be provided additional Confidential Information, pursuant to and in reliance on the restrictive covenant obligations and the restrictions on disclosure of the Confidential Information set forth in Paragraph 7;

**WHEREAS**, the Company desires to be assured that the Confidential Information and goodwill of the Company will be preserved for the exclusive benefit of the Company and that, as a material incentive for the Company to enter into this Agreement, as well as in exchange for the consideration specified herein (including, without limitation substantial amounts of compensation, benefits and access to the Confidential Information, in each case, as set forth herein), and employment of the Employee under this Agreement, the Employee acknowledges and agrees to be bound by the restrictive covenant obligations and the restrictions on disclosure of the Confidential Information set forth in Paragraph 7;

**WHEREAS**, the Parties acknowledge and agree that the restrictive covenant obligations and the restrictions on disclosure of the Confidential Information set forth in Paragraph 7 are essential to the continued growth and stability of the Company's business, good will, customer base and to the continuing viability of its endeavors, and are a material inducement to the Company entering into this Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties acknowledge and agree that the Company would be irreparably harmed if their Confidential Information were disclosed by the Employee.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the promises herein contained, the provision of Confidential Information and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, D&B, D&B Management, and Employee agree as follows:

1. **Employment/Duties**. D&B Management agrees to employ Employee and D&B agrees that Employee shall serve as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer.

Employee will be responsible for performing those duties that are customarily associated with the position of Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and other such reasonable duties that are assigned by the Chief Executive Officer from time-to-time. The Company or its Affiliates (as defined below) will provide appropriate training to Employee to permit him to perform his duties competently.

2. **Term of Agreement.** This Agreement shall be in effect for one (1) year from the Effective Date of this Agreement unless it is terminated earlier under the terms of Paragraph 8; provided, however, that commencing on the first anniversary of the Effective Date, and on each annual anniversary of such date, the term of this Agreement shall be automatically extended for a one year period unless it is terminated earlier under the terms of Paragraph 8. The Parties agree that unless specifically stated otherwise, the obligations created in Paragraphs 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 18 will survive the termination of this Agreement and of Employee's employment with D&B Management.

3. **Employee's Responsibilities.** Employee agrees that unless specifically stated otherwise, during the term of Employee's employment by D&B Management, Employee will devote Employee's full business time and best efforts and abilities to the performance of his duties for the Company. Employee agrees to act in the best interest of the Company at all times. Employee will act in accordance with the highest professional standards of ethics and integrity. Employee agrees to use Employee's best efforts and skills to preserve the business of the Company and the goodwill of its employees and persons having business relations with the Company. Employee will comply with all applicable laws and all of the Company's and its Affiliates' then current policies and procedures. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, if (a) Employee complies with the terms and provisions of D&B's Code of Business Ethics, as the same may be revised from time-to-time and (b) Employee's activities do not interfere with Employee's obligations to the Company, then, during the term of Employee's employment by D&B Management, Employee may: (x) engage in charitable, civic, fraternal and professional activities, (y) give lectures on behalf of educational or for-profit institutions, and (z) manage personal investments; provided that Employee shall disclose any conflicts of interest that cause Employee's personal endeavors to be in material conflict with the business of the Company and/or its Affiliates. Employee shall only serve on the board of directors of (i) a national charitable, civic or fraternal organization, (ii) a privately owned business, or (iii) a publicly-traded company with the prior written approval of the Board of Directors of D&B Management, in its sole discretion, and only to the extent that any such enterprise described in (i), (ii), or (iii) is not a Competitive Business. The Board of Directors of D&B Management will consider Employee's performance, time in role, time required to fulfill Employee's obligations to the Company, as well as the potential benefit to the Company in making its determination.

4. **No Limitations.** Employee warrants and represents that there is no contractual, judicial or other restraint that impairs Employee's right or legal ability to enter into this Agreement and to carry out Employee's duties and responsibilities to the Company, its affiliates, and its subsidiaries.

## 5. Compensation and Benefits.

(a) Base Salary. During the term of this Agreement, D&B Management will pay to Employee a base salary of \$500,000 per year. The base salary will be paid bi-weekly on regularly scheduled paydays determined by the Company. Employee shall be given an annual performance evaluation and, as determined by the Board of Directors of D&B Management, may receive periodic salary increases.

(b) Annual Bonus. During the term of this Agreement, the Employee will be eligible to receive an annual bonus as approved on annual basis by the Board of Directors of D&B Management and, if so approved, as determined by the Company based upon the attainment of a combination of individual and Company goals during a fiscal year set forth in a bonus plan approved by the Board of Directors of D&B Management, payable in accordance with such bonus plan. Employee's individual participation percentage in the bonus plan at target is equal to 80% of such Employee's base salary for the fiscal year.

(c) Perquisite Allowance. The Employee shall be entitled to a perquisite allowance in an amount equal to \$25,000.00 per year, payable during the term of this Agreement in accordance with the Company's standard payroll procedures.

(d) Retirement and Welfare Plans. Employee shall be eligible to participate in any profit sharing, qualified and nonqualified retirement plans, and any health, life, accident, disability insurance, sick leave, or other benefit plans or programs made available to similarly situated employees of the Company in accordance with the terms of such plans, as may be amended, supplemented or modified from time to time (collectively, the "Plans"), as long as they are kept in force by the Company and provided that Employee meets the eligibility requirements of the respective Plans. Nothing contained herein shall limit the right of the Company, in its sole and absolute discretion, to modify, amend or discontinue any of the Plans.

(e) Vacation. Subject to the Company's generally applicable policies relating to vacations, Employee shall be entitled to paid vacation commensurate with the Company's policy for senior management and Employee's position and tenure with the Company, but in no event less than twenty-seven (27) days paid vacation during each calendar year.

(f) Office and Support Staff. To the extent reasonably practicable, the Company shall endeavor to supply the Employee (i) with all equipment, supplies, and secretarial staff reasonably required in the performance of the Employee's duties and (ii) a fully furnished and appointed office comparable in size, furnishings and decorations to the offices of other officers of D&B of comparable responsibilities and the facilities of the Company shall be generally available to Employee in the performance of Employee's duties.

(g) **Other Benefits.** The Company will provide Employee with other employment benefits, as in existence from time to time, the Company provides to its full-time executive employees.

(h) **Expenses.** The Company shall reimburse the Employee for all reasonable business expenses incurred by the Employee in connection with the performance of the Employee's duties under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, reasonable travel, meals, and hotel accommodations of Employee, in each case subject to the Company's then current policies and procedures. Reimbursement shall be made upon submission by Employee of vouchers or an itemized list thereof in accordance with the Company's then current policies and procedures. Employee hereby authorizes the Company in advance to deduct any expenses from the Employee's salary if Employee fails to submit an expense as provided by the Company's then current policies and procedures.

(i) **Sign-On Bonus.** In lieu of participation in the FY 2021 second-half bonus program, and in partial recognition of the unvested equity Employee will forfeit upon leaving his current employment, the Company will give Employee a sign-on grant of \$300,000 worth of restricted stock units within Employee's first 30 days of employment. The units will vest in equal installments over 3 years and the number of shares will vary based on the closing price on the actual grant date. The grant will be subject to the terms of the Company's grant agreement.

6. **Training.** The Company has provided and will continue to provide Employee with such specialized training as the Company, in its sole discretion, deems necessary or beneficial to the performance of Employee's job duties.

7. **Confidential Information and Restrictive Covenants.** In consideration of the premises and mutual promises contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration specified herein (including, without limitation substantial amounts of compensation, the Company Group (as defined below) shall provide the Employee with benefits and Confidential Information, the use or disclosure of which would cause the Company Group substantial loss or injury including substantial diminishment of their goodwill, and would place the Company Group at a material competitive disadvantage. Accordingly, the Company and the Employee hereby agree as follows:

(a) **Certain Definitions.**

(i) As used in this Agreement, "**Affiliate**" of any person means any person, directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with such person, and includes any person who is an officer, director or employee of such person and any person that would be deemed to be an "affiliate" or an "associate" of such person, as those terms are defined in Rule 12b-2 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. As used in this definition, "**controlling**" (including, with its correlative meanings, "**controlled by**," and "**under common control**")

with”) means possession, directly or indirectly, of power to direct or cause the direction of management or policies (whether through ownership of securities, partnership or other ownership interests, by contract or otherwise). With respect to any natural person, “Affiliates” shall also include, without limitation, such person’s spouse, child and any trust the beneficiaries or grantor of which are limited solely to such person and/or his or her spouse or child. As used in this Agreement, “person” means any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, firm, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(ii) As used in this Agreement, “Company Group” shall mean D&B, any subsidiary and any successor to any of the foregoing.

(iii) As used in this Agreement, “Competitive Business” shall mean the owners or operators of venues in the Restricted Territory that combine a dining offering that is primarily full service with games, entertainment, sports attractions or sports viewing, but shall not include (x) dining establishments that derive less than 20% of their aggregate revenues from games, entertainment and sports attractions and have not highlighted sports viewing as a core offering in their consumer marketing or (y) entertainment concepts that derive less than 20% of their aggregate revenues from dining operations. For the avoidance of doubt, Competitive Business shall include, without limitation, the companies identified in Appendix A to the minutes of the Company’s compensation committee meeting whereby the form of this Agreement was approved.

(iv) As used in this Agreement, “Restricted Territory” shall mean: (a) North America and (b) any other state, province or country in which the Company (1) operates during the Employee’s employment or at the time of the Employee’s resignation or termination or (2) has expressed interest in operating or expects to operate within two (2) years following the Employee’s resignation or termination, and in each case in clause (2), of which the Employee was aware.

(b) Nondisclosure of Confidential Information. During the term of this Agreement, the Company Group agrees to continue to provide, and the Employee will acquire, certain Confidential Information. As a material incentive for the Company Group to enter into this Agreement, as well as in exchange for the consideration specified herein (including, without limitation substantial amounts of compensation, benefits and access to the Confidential Information, in each case, as set forth herein), and employment of the Employee under this Agreement, the Employee shall maintain in strict confidence and shall not disclose to third parties or use in any task, work or business (except on behalf of the Company Group) any proprietary or confidential information regarding the Company Group and/or his work with the Company Group, including, without limitation, trade secrets, current and future business plans, customers, customer lists, customer information, vendors, vendor lists, vendor information, employees, employee information, sales, purchasing, pricing determinations, price points, internal and external cost structures, operations, marketing, financial and other business strategies, positioning of stores, information and plans, products and services, games and amusement, development of

games and amusement, food and beverage, financial performance and other financial data and compilations of data, new store development and locations, pipeline, information regarding the Company Group's processes, computer programs and/or records, software programs, intellectual property, business development opportunities, acquisitions, acquisition targets, confidential information developed by consultants and contractors, manuals, memoranda, projections, and minutes ("Confidential Information"), without the express written permission of the Board of Directors of D&B. The Employee's confidentiality obligation in this Paragraph 7 shall include, but not be limited to, any Confidential Information to which the Employee has access to, had access to, will have access to, receives, or received in connection with his employment by Company Group, and any information designated as confidential by the Company Group. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term Confidential Information shall not include information that (i) is publicly disclosed through no fault of the Employee, either before or after it becomes known to the Employee, (ii) was known to the Employee prior to the date of this Agreement, which knowledge was acquired independently and not from the Company Group or its directors or employees or (iii) became available to the Employee on a non-confidential basis from a source other than the Company Group, provided such source is not bound by a confidentiality agreement with or other contractual, legal or fiduciary obligation of confidentiality to the Company Group or any other party with respect to such information. The Company Group and the Employee acknowledge and agree that the Confidential Information is continually evolving and changing and that some new Confidential Information will be needed by the Employee and provided by the Company Group for the first time in the course of the term of this Agreement. The Employee expressly acknowledges the trade secret status of the Confidential Information and agrees that the Employee's access to such Confidential Information constitutes a protectable business interest of the Company Group. Notwithstanding the foregoing restrictions, the Employee may disclose any Confidential Information (a) to the Employee's legal advisors subject to such advisor's agreement to maintain the information as confidential, (b) to the extent required for the Employee's enforcement of his rights hereunder (provided that such information be submitted under seal or otherwise not publicly disclosed), (c) to the extent required by an order of any court or other governmental authority, but in each case only after the Company Group has been so notified in writing and has had five (5) business days to obtain reasonable protection for such information in connection with such disclosure, and (d) if such disclosure is protected under the whistleblower provisions of federal law or regulation.

(c) Return of Property. Upon termination of the Employee's employment with the Company Group (for any reason), the Employee shall promptly return to the Company Group all Company property, Confidential Information and all copies thereof obtained by the Employee, or his employees or agents. The Parties acknowledge that the Company Group would not retain the Employee's services or provide him with access to its Confidential Information without the covenants and promises contained in this Paragraph 7. For avoidance of doubt, the Employee shall deliver promptly to the Company Group on termination of his employment with the Company Group for any reason, or at any other time the Company Group may so request, all Confidential Information and all other documentation containing information relating to the business of the Company Group or property of the Company Group which he obtained or developed while employed by, or otherwise serving or acting on behalf of, the Company Group and which he may then possess or have under his control or relating to the "Work" (as defined below).

(d) Non-Access. Employee agrees that following the termination of his employment with D&B Management, he will not access the Company Group's computer systems, download files or any information from the Company Group's computer systems or in any way interfere, disrupt, modify or change any computer program used by the Company Group or any data stored on the Company Group's computer systems. Employee further agrees that all of the computers, hand held devices, and mobile telephones provided by the Company are the sole property of the Company Group.

(e) Acknowledgment of the Company Group's Right In Work Product. During the term of this Agreement, the Employee will create, develop and contribute for consideration certain ideas, plans, calculations, technical specifications, works of authorship, inventions, information, data, formulas, models, reports, processes, photographs, marks, designs, computer code, concepts and/or other proprietary materials to the Company Group related to the operation or promotion of the business of the Company Group (collectively, the "Work"). All of the Work is, was and shall hereafter be, a commissioned "work for hire" owned by the Company Group within the meaning of Title 17, Section 101 of the United States Code, as amended. If any portion of the Work is determined not to be a "work for hire" or such doctrine is not effective, the Employee hereby irrevocably assigns, conveys and otherwise transfers to the Company Group, and its respective successors, licensees, and assigns, all right, title and interest worldwide in and to such portion of the Work and all proprietary rights therein, including, without limitation, all copyrights, trademarks, design patents, trade secret rights, moral rights, and all contract and licensing rights, and all claims and causes of action with respect to any of the foregoing, whether now known or hereafter to become known. In accordance with this assignment, the Company Group shall hold all ownership to all rights, without limitation, in and to all of the Work for its own use and for its legal representatives, assigns and successors, and this assignment shall be binding on and extended to the heirs, assigns, representatives and successors of the Employee. In the event the Employee has any right or interest in the Work which cannot be assigned, the Employee agrees to waive enforcement worldwide of any and all such rights or interests against the Company Group and its respective successors, licensees and assigns, and the Employee hereby exclusively and irrevocably licenses any and all such rights and interests, worldwide, to the Company Group in perpetuity and royalty-free, along with the unfettered right to sublicense. All such rights are fully assignable by Company Group. The Employee hereby agrees that all Work is created or developed for the sole use of the Company Group, and that the Employee has no right to market in any manner whatsoever any such Work.

(f) Non-Compete Agreement. The Parties agree that, during the course of the Employee's employment by the Company Group and during the term of this Agreement, the Employee will have access to, and the benefit of, the Company Group's Confidential Information, including but not limited to, the Confidential Information described in Paragraph 7(b). The Parties agree that, during the Employee's employment, the Employee will represent the Company Group and develop contacts and relationships with other persons and entities on behalf of the Company Group, including but not limited to, with customers and potential customers. To protect the Company Group's interest in its Confidential Information, contacts and relationships, to enforce the Employee's obligations under this Paragraph 7, and as a material inducement for the Company Group to enter into this Agreement, as well as in exchange for the consideration specified herein (including, without limitation, substantial amounts of compensation, benefits and access to and provision of the Confidential Information, in each case, as set forth herein), and employment of the Employee under this Agreement, the Parties hereby agree and covenant that during the term of this Agreement and for a period of one (1) year from the termination of this Agreement for any reason (including, without limitation, resignation by the Employee or upon notice from the Employee as provided in Paragraph 8(b)) (the "Non-Compete Period"), the Employee shall not directly or indirectly, for himself or others, within the Restricted Territory:

(i) own, manage, operate, join, control, or participate in the ownership, management, operation or control of, or engage in any activity, work, business, or investment with any other Competitive Business (or for or on behalf of any other entity or person or any other Competitive Business), including, without limitation, any attempted or actual activity as an employee, officer, director, advisor, agent, equityholder, consultant or independent contractor (whether or not compensated for any of the foregoing); provided, however, that the Employee may own an investment interest of less than 2% in a publicly-traded company.

(g) Non-Solicitation and Non-Hire Agreement. Additionally, in exchange for the consideration specified herein and as stated in this Paragraph 7, and as a material incentive for the Company Group to enter into this Agreement, during the term of this Agreement and for a period of two (2) years from the termination of this Agreement for any reason (including, without limitation, resignation by the Employee) (the "Non-Solicitation and Non-Hire Period"), the Employee shall not, directly or indirectly, on his own behalf or on behalf of any other person, partnership, entity, association, or corporation, induce or attempt to influence, induce, encourage, any employee of the Company Group at or above the managerial level (including, without limitation, store managers and regional managers), supplier, vendor, licensee, distributor, contractor or other business relation of the Company Group to cease doing business with, adversely alter or interfere with its business relationship with, the Company Group. Further, during the Non-Solicitation and Non-Hire Period, the Employee shall not, on his own behalf or on behalf of any other person, partnership, entity, association, or corporation, (i) solicit or seek to hire any employee of the Company Group at or above the store general manager level for operations employees and the officer level for non-operations employees or in any other manner attempt directly or indirectly to influence, induce, or encourage any employee of the Company Group at or above the store general manager level for operations employees and with a title of "Director" or more senior for non-operations employees to leave their employ



(provided, however, that nothing herein shall restrict the Employee from engaging in any general solicitation that is not specifically targeted at such persons), nor shall he use or disclose to any person, partnership, entity, association, or corporation any information concerning the names, addresses or personal telephone numbers of any employees of the Company Group, or (ii), without the Company's prior written consent, hire, employ or engage as a consultant any employee of the Company Group with a title of "Director" or more senior.

(h) Reasonableness of Restrictions, Modification. It is the desire and intent of the Parties to this Agreement that the provisions of this Paragraph 7 shall be enforced to the fullest extent permissible under the laws and public policies applied in each jurisdiction in which enforcement is sought. It is expressly understood and agreed that the Company Group and the Employee consider the restrictions contained in this Paragraph 7 to be reasonable and necessary for the purposes of preserving and protecting the Confidential Information and other legitimate business interests of the Company Group. Nevertheless, if any of the aforesaid restrictions is found to be unreasonable, over-broad as to geographic area, duration or scope of activity, or otherwise unenforceable, the Company Group and the Employee intend for the restrictions herein set forth to be modified to be reasonable and enforceable and, as so modified, to be fully enforced.

(i) Specific Performance, Injunctive and Other Relief. The Parties acknowledge that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for any breach or threatened breach of this Paragraph 7 by the Employee. Therefore, notwithstanding the arbitration provisions in Paragraph 10, the Employee and the Company Group agree that the Company Group may resort to a court to enforce this Paragraph 7 by injunctive relief. The Parties agree that the Company Group may enforce this promise without posting a bond and without giving notice to the maximum extent permitted by law. The remedies addressed in this Paragraph 7(i) shall not be deemed the exclusive remedies for a breach and/or threatened breach of this Paragraph 7, but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or in equity to the Company Group, including, without limitation, the recovery of damages from the Employee. The Employee agrees that the Non-Compete Period and the Non-Solicitation Period shall be tolled during any period of violation by Employee of this Paragraph 7.

(j) Notice and Opportunity to Cure. In the event that the Company asserts that Employee is not in compliance with any of its obligations under this Paragraph 7, unless such non-compliance or breach is willful and intentional or not susceptible to cure, the Company shall provide the Employee with written notice of such assertion and a ten (10) business day opportunity to cure such noncompliance prior to its withholding payment of any consideration specified in this Agreement or taking other legal action.

## 8. Termination of Agreement.

(a) Death or Disability. This Agreement shall automatically terminate upon the death of Employee or upon Employee's becoming disabled to the extent that he is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve (12) months, or is, by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve (12) months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three (3) months under an accident and health plan covering employees of D&B Management. The determination of Employee's disability shall be made in good faith by a physician reasonably acceptable to the Company.

(b) Upon Notice. Either the Company or the Employee may terminate this Agreement at any time during the term by giving the other Party no less than thirty (30) days' prior written notice of the date of termination. Promptly after the Employee or the Company gives such notice, the Parties shall meet and in good faith confer regarding the Employee's work responsibilities during the remainder of the notice period; provided that the Company may determine in its sole discretion to not have the Employee continue his work responsibilities and the Employee shall promptly cease his work responsibility and vacate his office. During the remainder of the notice period (if so requested by the Company), Employee agrees to use best efforts to continue performing the duties assigned by the Company, and the Company agrees to continue compensating Employee until the termination date with the same pay and benefits as before the notice was given.

(c) For Cause. The Company may terminate this Agreement without any prior written notice to Employee if the termination is "for cause." For purposes of this Agreement "for cause" shall be defined as the willful and continued failure by Employee to perform the duties assigned by the Chief Executive Officer, failure to follow reasonable business-related directions from the Chief Executive Officer, gross insubordination, theft from the Company or its Affiliates, habitual absenteeism or tardiness, conviction or plea of a felony, or any other reckless or willful misconduct that is contrary to the best interests of the Company or materially and adversely affects the reputation of the Company. If the Chief Executive Officer believes that an event constituting "for cause" under this section has occurred and such event (i) is not a criminal offense and (ii) is readily curable by Employee, then the Chief Executive Officer shall provide written notice to the Employee setting forth: (A) the Chief Executive Officer's intent to terminate the Employee's employment for cause, and (B) the reasons for the Chief Executive Officer's intent to terminate the Employee's employment for cause. The Employee shall have ten (10) business days following the receipt of such notice to cure the alleged breach. The Chief Executive Officer may terminate this Agreement without any further notice to Employee if such cure has not occurred within such ten (10) business day period. In the event that the Company contends that the event is not readily curable by Employee, the Chief Executive Officer shall provide written notice to Employee setting forth: (X) the reasons for the Chief Executive Officer's intent to terminate Employee's employment "for cause" and (Y) the basis for the Chief Executive Officer's determination that such event is not readily curable.

(d) For Good Reason. The Employee may terminate this Agreement without any prior written notice to the Company if the termination is “for good reason.” For purposes of this Agreement “for good reason” shall be defined as (i) the material breach by the Company of this Agreement; (ii) the Company’s relocation of the office where Employee performs his duties by twenty-five (25) or more miles; (iii) assignment to the Employee of any duties, authority or responsibilities that are materially inconsistent with the Employee’s position, authority, duties or responsibilities, or any other Company action that results in the material diminution in such position, authorities, duties or responsibilities; (iv) substantial change in organizational reporting relationships as compared to the Effective Date that will materially impact Employee’s title, status, position, authority, duties or responsibilities reporting requirements; and (v) any other purported termination of the Employee other than under the terms of this Agreement; provided, that the occurrence of any event described in this sentence may only constitute termination “for good reason” if (a) the Employee gives the Company written notice of his intention to terminate his employment “for good reason” and, in reasonable detail, of the event constituting grounds for such termination within sixty (60) days of the occurrence of such event, and (b) the relevant circumstances or conditions are not remedied by the Company within thirty (30) days after receipt by the Company of such written notice from the Employee.

(e) Severance Pay and Release. In the event that the Employee’s employment with the Company under this Agreement is terminated for reasons other than (x) upon notice from the Employee as provided in Paragraph 8(b), subject to Paragraph 8(f) or (y) “for cause” as defined in Paragraph 8(c), the Company shall, conditioned upon the Employee’s compliance with this Agreement and upon the Employee’s execution of a fully effective and non-revocable general release in favor of the Company, its Board of Directors, Affiliates, and employees, in such form as reasonably approved by the Company and the Employee (the “Release”) within sixty (60) days of the Employee’s termination of employment, which Release shall be provided to the Employee within five (5) days of the Employee’s termination of employment, pay to the Employee: (i) twelve (12) months of severance pay at the Employee’s then current base salary from the date of termination of the Employee’s employment (adjusted, if applicable, as described below to take into account the amount of disability insurance payments received by the Employee), in accordance with the Company’s normal payroll schedule and procedures and commencing on the first payroll date of the Company following the sixtieth (60th) day of the Employee’s termination of employment (the “First Payroll Date”), and subject to all applicable withholding (it being agreed that the sum of the after-tax value of these monthly payments and any income replacement benefits received from Company-provided disability insurance as described in Paragraph 8(a) shall not exceed the after-tax value of the Employee’s then-current base salary). The portion of the severance pay that would have been paid to the Employee during the period between the Employee’s termination of employment and the First Payroll Date had no sixty-day delay been required shall be paid to the Employee on the First Payroll Date and thereafter the remaining portion of the severance pay shall be paid without delay as provided in clause (i) above of this Paragraph 8(e); (ii) an amount equal to the annual bonus, if any, earned based on actual performance

by the Employee for the prior fiscal year, if it has not previously been paid by the Company payable in a single lump sum payment at the time provided for under the bonus plan (but without regard to any requirement that the Employee be employed on the bonus payment date) or if later, on the First Payroll Date; (iii) the pro rata portion of the annual bonus, if any, earned based on actual performance by the Employee for the then-current fiscal year, payable in the calendar year in which the then-current fiscal year ends, but in no event later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the end of such fiscal year and no earlier than the First Payroll Date, in accordance with the Company's standard procedures for paying any such bonus to other employees under the bonus plan, except for any requirement that the Employee be employed on the bonus payment date, and subject to all applicable withholding; (iv) monthly payments for a period of twelve (12) months following the Employee's termination that are equal to the monthly payment being made to the Employee under Paragraph 5(c) at the time of the Employee's termination commencing on the First Payroll Date; and (v) monthly payments for a period of twelve (12) months following the Employee's termination, payable in accordance with the Company's normal payroll schedule and procedures and commencing on the First Payroll Date, and subject to all applicable withholding, that are equal to the monthly premium required by the Employee to maintain his health insurance benefits provided by the Company's group health insurance plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 ("COBRA") (it being understood that the portion of such payments described in clauses (iv) and (v) that would have been paid to the Employee during the period between the Employee's termination of employment and the First Payroll Date had no sixty-day delay been required shall be paid to the Employee on the First Payroll Date, and thereafter the remaining portion of such payments shall be paid without delay). In the event that this Agreement is terminated "for cause" pursuant to Paragraph 8(c), the Company shall pay to the Employee only (A) that base salary which has been earned by the Employee through the date of termination payable in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices and (B) unless the "for cause" termination results from the Employee's theft from the Company or its Affiliates, conviction or plea of a felony, or any other reckless or willful misconduct that materially and adversely affects the reputation of the Company, the annual bonus, if any, described in clause (ii) above of this Paragraph 8(e) and payable in accordance with clause (ii) above of this Paragraph 8(e), if it has not previously been paid by the Company. In the event that this Agreement is terminated upon notice from the Employee pursuant to Paragraph 8(b), the Company shall pay to the Employee only (1) that base salary which has been earned by the Employee through the date of termination payable in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices and (2) the annual bonus, if any, described in Paragraph 8(e)(ii) above and payable in accordance with Paragraph 8(e)(ii). Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Agreement, no amount shall be paid pursuant to this Paragraph 8(e) unless the Employee's termination of employment constitutes of "separation from service" (as such term is defined in Treas. Reg. Section 1.409-1(h), including the default presumptions). The Employee agrees to return to the Company any payments received pursuant to this Paragraph 8 in the event that Employee does not fully comply (after written notice and opportunity to cure as provided in Paragraph 7(j) above) with all post-employment obligations set out in this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the restrictive covenants and the restrictions on disclosure of the Confidential Information of the Company Group set forth in Paragraph 7.

(f) Severance Pay and Release Upon Termination by the Employee Upon Notice. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, if the Employee's employment with the Company is terminated upon notice from the Employee as provided in Paragraph 8(b) (including, without limitation, resignation by the Employee), the Company may at its sole option elect to: (i) provide any payments and other severance benefits set forth in Paragraph 8(e) to the Employee; provided that if the Employee is at any time not in full compliance with the Employee's obligations set forth in Paragraph 7, the Employee shall forfeit any and all payments and other severance benefits set forth in Paragraph 8(e); and provided further that, if the Employee is provided payments or other severance benefits described in Paragraph 8(e), the Employee shall execute a Release, or (ii) not provide any payments and other severance benefits set forth in Paragraph 8(e) to the Employee (and, for the avoidance of doubt, the Employee shall continue to be bound by all of the terms of Paragraph 7).

#### 9. Section 409A.

(a) If any payment, compensation or other benefit provided to the Employee in connection with his employment termination is determined, in whole or in part, to constitute "nonqualified deferred compensation" within the meaning of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Section 409A") and the Employee is a specified employee as defined in Section 409A(a)(2)(B)(i), then no portion of such "nonqualified deferred compensation" shall be paid before the earlier of (i) the day that is six (6) months plus one (1) day after the date of termination or (ii) five (5) days following the Employee's death (the "New Payment Date"). The aggregate of any payments that otherwise would have been paid to the Employee during the period between the date of termination and the New Payment Date shall be paid to the Employee in a lump sum on such New Payment Date. Thereafter, any payments that remain outstanding as of the day immediately following the New Payment Date shall be paid without delay over the time period originally scheduled, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent that the foregoing applies to the provision of any ongoing welfare benefits to the Employee that would not be required to be delayed if the premiums therefor were paid by the Employee, the Employee shall pay the full cost of premiums for such welfare benefits during the six-month period and the Company shall pay the Employee an amount equal to the amount of such premiums paid by the Employee during such six-month period promptly after its conclusion.

(b) The Parties hereto acknowledge and agree that the interpretation of Section 409A and its application to the terms of this Agreement is uncertain and may be subject to change as additional guidance and interpretations become available. Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, all benefits or payments provided by the Company to the Employee that would be deemed to constitute "nonqualified deferred compensation" within the meaning of Section 409A are intended to comply with Section 409A. If,

however, any such benefit or payment is deemed to not comply with Section 409A, the Company and the Employee agree to renegotiate in good faith any such benefit or payment (including, without limitation, as to the timing of any severance payments payable hereof) so that either (i) Section 409A will not apply or (ii) compliance with Section 409A will be achieved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company makes no guarantee of any federal, state or local tax consequences with respect to the interpretation of Section 409A and its application to the terms of this Agreement, and the Company shall have no liability for any adverse tax consequences of the Employee, as a result of any violation of Section 409A.

(c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, all reimbursements for costs and expenses under this Agreement shall be paid in no event later than the end of the taxable year following the taxable year in which the Employee incurs such expense. With regard to any provision herein that provides for reimbursement of costs and expenses or in-kind benefits, except as permitted by Section 409A, (i) the right to reimbursement or in-kind benefits shall not be subject to liquidation or exchange for another benefit and (ii) the amount of expenses eligible for reimbursements or in-kind benefits provided during any taxable year shall not affect the expenses eligible for reimbursement or in-kind benefits to be provided in any other taxable year, provided, however, that the foregoing clause (ii) shall not be violated with regard to expenses reimbursed under any arrangement covered by Section 105(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, solely because such expenses are subject to a limit related to the period the arrangement is in effect.

(d) If under this Agreement, an amount is paid in two or more installments, for purposes of Section 409A, each installment shall be treated as a separate payment.

(e) A termination of employment shall not be deemed to have occurred for purposes of any provision of this Agreement providing for the payment of any amounts or benefits subject to Section 409A upon or following a termination of employment unless such termination is also a "separation from service" as defined in Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-1(h), including the default presumptions, and for purposes of any such provision of this Agreement, references to a "resignation," "termination," "terminate," "termination of employment" or like terms shall mean separation from service.

10. **Confidential Arbitration**. The Employee and the Company hereby agree that any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, including the arbitrability of any controversy or claim, which cannot be settled by mutual agreement will be finally settled by confidential and binding arbitration in accordance with the Federal Arbitration Act. Further, notwithstanding the preceding sentence, in the event disputes arise that relate in any way to and concern this Agreement and also relate in any way to and concern one or more other Equity Agreements, the Parties agree that such disputes may be joined in a single binding arbitration if doing so would not result in unreasonable delay. All arbitrations shall be administered by a panel of three neutral arbitrators (the "Panel") admitted to practice law in Texas for at least ten (10) years, in accordance with the American Arbitration Association Rules. Any such arbitration proceeding shall be

administered by the American Arbitration Association and all hearings shall take place in Dallas County, Texas. The arbitration proceeding and all related documents will be confidential, unless disclosure is required by law. The Panel will have the authority to award the same remedies, damages, and costs that a court could award, including but not limited to the right to award injunctive relief in accordance with the other provisions of this Agreement. Further, the Parties specifically agree that, in the interest of minimizing expenses and promoting early resolution of claims, the filing of dispositive motions shall be permitted and that prompt resolution of such motions by the Panel shall be encouraged. The Panel shall issue a written reasoned award explaining the decision, the reasons for the decision, and any damages awarded. The Panel's decision will be final and binding. The judgment on the award rendered by the Panel may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. This provision can be enforced under the Federal Arbitration Act. The Panel shall be permitted to award only those remedies in law or equity that are requested by the Parties, appropriate for the claims and supported by evidence, and each Party shall be required to bear its or his own arbitration costs, attorneys' fees and expenses.

(a) The decision of the arbitrator on the points in dispute will be final, unappealable and binding, and judgment on the award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The Parties agree that this provision has been adopted by the Parties to rapidly and inexpensively resolve any disputes between them and that this provision will be grounds for dismissal of any court action commenced by any Party with respect to this Agreement, other than post-arbitration actions seeking to enforce an arbitration award.

(b) The Parties will keep confidential, and will not disclose to any person, except as may be required by law, the existence of any controversy under this Paragraph 10, the referral of any such controversy to arbitration or the status or resolution thereof. In addition, the confidentiality restrictions set forth in this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

(c) As the sole exception to the exclusive and binding nature of the arbitration commitment set forth above, the Parties agree that the Company Group may resort to Texas state courts having equity jurisdiction in and for Dallas County, Texas and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, at its sole option, to request temporary, preliminary, and/or permanent injunctive or other equitable relief, including, without limitation, specific performance, to enforce the post-employment restrictions and other non-solicitation and confidentiality obligations set forth in this Agreement, without the necessity of proving inadequacy of legal remedies or irreparable harm or posting bond or giving notice, to the maximum extent permitted by law. However, nothing in this Paragraph 10 should be construed to constitute a waiver of the Parties' rights and obligations to arbitrate as set forth in this Paragraph 10.

(d) IN THE EVENT THAT ANY COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION OR ARBITRATOR DETERMINES THAT THE SCOPE OF THE ARBITRATION OR RELATED PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT ARE TOO BROAD TO BE ENFORCED AS WRITTEN, THE PARTIES INTEND THAT THE COURT REFORM THE PROVISION IN QUESTION TO SUCH NARROWER SCOPE AS IT DETERMINES TO BE REASONABLE AND ENFORCEABLE. EACH PARTY HERETO ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE OTHER PARTY HERETO THAT THIS PARAGRAPH 10(d) CONSTITUTES A MATERIAL INDUCEMENT UPON WHICH IT OR HE IS RELYING AND WILL RELY IN ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT.

BEFORE ACCEPTING THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE RESTRICTIVE COVENANT TERMS, PLEASE READ AND UNDERSTAND YOUR CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS TO THE COMPANY AND ITS AFFILIATES.

11. **Indemnification.** The Company shall indemnify Employee to the fullest extent permitted by Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law against all costs, expenses, liabilities and losses, including but not limited to, attorneys fees, judgments, fines, penalties, taxes and amounts paid in settlement, reasonably incurred by Employee in conjunction with any action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative in nature, which the Employee is made or threatened to be made a party or witness by reason of his position as officer, employee or agent of the Company or otherwise due to his association with the Company or due to his position or association with any other entity, at the request of the Company. The Company shall advance to Employee all reasonable costs and expenses incurred in connection with such action within twenty (20) days after receipt by the Company of Employee's written request. The Company shall be entitled to be reimbursed by Employee and Employee agrees to reimburse the Company if it is determined that Employee is not entitled to be indemnified with respect to an action, suit, or proceeding under applicable law. The Company shall not settle any such claim in any manner which would impose liability, including monetary penalties or censure, on the Employee without his prior written consent, unless the Employee would be harmed by such action.

12. **Governing Law; Submission to Jurisdiction; Jury Waiver.** THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE EXCLUSIVELY GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAW DOCTRINE. THE VENUE FOR ANY ENFORCEMENT OF THE ARBITRATION AWARD SHALL BE EXCLUSIVELY IN THE COURTS IN DALLAS, TEXAS, AND THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, DALLAS DIVISION. THE PARTIES WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL.

13. **Severability.** If any provision of this Agreement is declared or found to be illegal, unenforceable, or void, in whole or in part, then the Parties will be relieved of all obligations arising under such provision, but only to the extent it is illegal, unenforceable, or void. The Parties intend that this Agreement will be deemed amended by modifying any such illegal, unenforceable, or void provision to the extent necessary to make it legal and enforceable while preserving its intent, or if such is not possible, by substituting therefor another provision that is legal and enforceable and achieves the same objectives. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the remainder of this Agreement will not be affected by such declaration or finding and is capable of substantial performance, then each provision not so affected will be enforced to the extent permitted by law.



14. **Waiver.** No delay or omission by any Party to this Agreement to exercise any right or power under this Agreement will impair such right or power or be construed as a waiver thereof. A waiver by any of the Parties to this Agreement of any of the covenants to be performed by the other or any breach thereof will not be construed to be a waiver of any succeeding breach thereof or of any other covenant contained in this Agreement. All remedies provided for in this Agreement will be cumulative and in addition to and not in lieu of any other remedies available to any Party at law, in equity or otherwise.

15. **Notices.** Any notices, consents, demands, requests, approvals and other communications to be given under this Agreement by any Party to the other shall be deemed to have been duly given if given in writing and personally delivered or sent by mail (registered or certified) or by a recognized "next-day delivery service" to the address set forth below a Party's signature, with a courtesy copy provided to the Company's General Counsel.

16. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement represents the entire agreement relating to employment between the Company and Employee and supersedes all previous oral and written and all contemporaneous oral negotiations or commitments, writings and other understandings which, at the Effective Date, shall be deemed to be terminated and of no further force or effect. No prior or subsequent promises, representation, or understandings relative to any terms or conditions of employment are to be considered as part of this Agreement or as binding.

17. **Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended or modified only in a writing signed by the Parties hereto.

18. **Guarantee of Payment and Performance.** D&B agrees to guarantee in all respects the payment and performance obligations of D&B Management set forth in this Agreement.

19. **Withholding.** The Company shall be entitled to withhold from any amounts to be paid or benefits provided to the Employee hereunder any federal, state, local, or foreign withholding or other taxes or charges which it is from time to time required to withhold. The Company shall be entitled to rely on an opinion of counsel or tax preparer if any question as to the amount or requirement of any such withholding shall arise.

20. **Acknowledgment.** By signing below, as a material inducement to the Company entering into this Agreement, Employee unconditionally represents and warrants that: (a) Employee has been advised to consult with an attorney regarding the terms of this Agreement; (b) Employee has consulted with, or has had sufficient opportunity to consult with Employee's own counsel or other advisors regarding the terms of this Agreement; (c)

Employee has relied solely on Employee's own judgment and that of Employee's attorneys, advisors, and representatives regarding the consideration for, and the terms of, this Agreement; (d) any and all questions regarding the terms of this Agreement have been asked and answered to Employee's complete satisfaction; (e) Employee has read this Agreement and fully understand its terms and their import; and (f) Employee is entering into this Agreement voluntarily, of Employee's own free will, and without any duress, coercion, fraudulent inducement, or undue influence exerted by or on behalf of any other Party or any other person or entity.

21. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts with the same effect as if the signatures to each counterpart were upon a single instrument, and all such counterparts together shall be deemed an original of this Agreement.

*[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]*

**COMPANY:**

**DAVE & BUSTER'S MANAGEMENT CORPORATION, INC.**

By: /s/ Rob Edmund  
Name: Rob Edmund  
Title: General Counsel, SVP HR

Address: 2481 Manana Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75220

**DAVE & BUSTER'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**

By: /s/ Kevin Sheehan  
Name: Kevin Sheehan  
Title: Board Chairman and Interim Chief Executive Officer

Address: 2481 Manana Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75220

**EMPLOYEE:**

/s/ Michael Quartieri  
Michael Quartieri

Address: 2481 Manana Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75220

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT]

## SUBSIDIARIES OF THE REGISTRANT

| Name   | State or Other<br>Jurisdiction of Incorporation<br>Or Organization |
|--|--|
| Dave & Buster's I, L.P.                      | Texas  |
| Dave & Buster's, Inc.                        | Missouri   |
| Dave & Buster's Holdings, Inc.               | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's Invesco LLC                  | Texas  |
| Dave & Buster's Management Corporation, Inc. | Texas  |
| Dave & Buster's ProCo LLC                    | Texas  |
| Dave & Buster's of Alabama, Inc.             | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Alaska, Inc.              | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Arkansas, Inc.            | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of California, Inc.          | California   |
| Dave & Buster's of Connecticut, Inc.         | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Colorado, Inc.            | Colorado   |
| Dave & Buster's of Florida, LP               | Florida  |
| Dave & Buster's of Georgia, Inc.             | Georgia  |
| Dave & Buster's of Hawaii, Inc.              | Hawaii   |
| Dave & Buster's of Idaho, Inc.               | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Illinois, Inc.            | Illinois   |
| Dave & Buster's of Indiana, Inc.             | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Iowa, Inc.                | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Kansas, Inc.              | Kansas   |
| Dave & Buster's of Kentucky, Inc.            | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Louisiana, Inc.           | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Maryland, Inc.            | Maryland   |
| Dave & Buster's of Massachusetts, Inc.       | Massachusetts  |
| Dave & Buster's of Nebraska, Inc.            | Nebraska   |
| Dave & Buster's of Nevada, Inc.              | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of New Hampshire, Inc.       | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of New Jersey, Inc.          | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of New Mexico, Inc.          | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of New York, Inc.            | New York   |
| Dave & Buster's of Oklahoma, Inc.            | Oklahoma   |
| Dave & Buster's of Oregon, Inc.              | Oregon   |
| Dave & Buster's of Pennsylvania, Inc.        | Pennsylvania   |
| Dave & Buster's of Pittsburgh, Inc.          | Pennsylvania   |
| Dave & Buster's of Puerto Rico, Inc.         | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of South Carolina, Inc.      | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of South Dakota, Inc.        | South Dakota   |
| Dave & Buster's of Utah, Inc.                | Delaware   |
| Dave & Buster's of Virginia, Inc.            | Virginia   |
| Dave & Buster's of Washington, Inc.          | Washington   |
| Dave & Buster's of Wisconsin, Inc.           | Delaware   |
| D&B Delco, LLC                               | Delaware   |
| D&B Leasing, Inc.                            | Texas  |
| D&B Marketing Company, LLC                   | Virginia   |
| DANDB Texas, Inc.                            | Texas  |
| Tango Acquisition, Inc.                      | Delaware   |
| Tango License Corporation                    | Delaware   |
| Tango of Arizona, Inc.                       | Delaware   |
| Tango of Arundel, Inc.                       | Delaware   |
| Tango of Farmingdale, Inc.                   | Delaware   |
| Tango of Franklin, Inc.                      | Delaware   |
| Tango of Houston, Inc.                       | Delaware   |
| Tango of North Carolina, Inc.                | Delaware   |
| Tango of Tennessee, Inc.                     | Delaware   |
| Tango of Westbury, Inc.                      | Delaware   |
| 6131646 Canada, Inc.                         | Canada   |

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statements (Nos. 333-239590 and 333-199239) on Form S-8 and (No. 333-237664) on Form S-3 of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. of our reports dated March 29, 2022, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc., and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting which reports appear in the Form 10-K of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. dated March 29, 2022.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Dallas, Texas  
March 29, 2022

## CERTIFICATION

I, Kevin M. Sheehan, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc., certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 29, 2022

/s/ Kevin M. Sheehan

Kevin M. Sheehan  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

## CERTIFICATION

I, Michael A. Quartieri, Chief Financial Officer of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc., certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 29, 2022

/s/ Michael A. Quartieri

Michael A. Quartieri  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

**CERTIFICATION**

In connection with the Annual Report of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the period ended January 30, 2022 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Kevin M. Sheehan, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the applicable requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: March 29, 2022

/s/ Kevin M. Sheehan

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Kevin M. Sheehan

Interim Chief Executive Officer

(Principal Executive Officer)



## CERTIFICATION

In connection with the Annual Report of Dave & Buster's Entertainment, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the period ended January 30, 2022 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Michael A. Quartieri, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the applicable requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: March 29, 2022

/s/ Michael A. Quartieri

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Michael A. Quartieri

Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)