
Section 1: 10-K (10-K)

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K**

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017

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 Number: 001-36267

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)

46-3891989

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**402 Blue Bird Boulevard
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

31030

(Zip Code)

(478) 822-2801

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value	NASDAQ Global Market

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark 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 check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and has posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted 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 and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or and 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 type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input checked="" 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 is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

At April 1, 2017, the aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$172.1 million based on the closing sales price of \$17.15 as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market on March 31, 2017. For the purpose of this response, executive officers, directors, and holders of 10% or more of the registrant's common stock are considered to be affiliates of the registrant at that date.

At December 4, 2017, there were 23,964,312 outstanding shares of the registrant's \$0.0001 par value common stock.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant's definitive proxy statement to be delivered to shareholders in connection with the Registrant's 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated by reference in response to Part III of this report.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION
FORM 10-K

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PART I

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K (this “Report”) of Blue Bird Corporation (“Blue Bird” or the “Company”) contains forward-looking statements. Except as otherwise indicated by the context, references in this Report to “we,” “us” and “our” are to the consolidated business of the Company. All statements in this Report, including those made by the management of the Company, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on management’s estimates, projections and assumptions as of the date hereof and include the assumptions that underlie such statements. Forward-looking statements may contain words such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “plan,” “estimate,” “project,” “forecast,” “seek,” “target,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “predict,” “potential” and “continue,” the negative of these terms, or other comparable terminology. Examples of forward-looking statements include statements regarding the Company’s future financial results, research and trial results, regulatory approvals, operating results, business strategies, projected costs, products, competitive positions, management’s plans and objectives for future operations, and industry trends. These forward-looking statements relate to expectations for future financial performance, business strategies or expectations for our business. Specifically, forward-looking statements may include statements relating to:

- the future financial performance of the Company;*
- changes in the market for Blue Bird products; and*
- expansion plans and opportunities.*

These forward-looking statements are based on information available as of the date of this Report (or, in the case of forward-looking statements incorporated herein by reference, as of the date of the applicable filed document), and current expectations, forecasts and assumptions, and involve a number of judgments, risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing our views as of any subsequent date, and we do not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date they were made, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required under applicable securities laws. As a result of a number of known and unknown risks and uncertainties, our actual results or performance may be materially different than those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements.

Any expectations based on these forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties and other important factors, including those discussed in this Report, specifically the sections titled “Risk Factors” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.” Other risks and uncertainties are and will be disclosed in the Company’s prior and future SEC filings. The following information should be read in conjunction with the financial statements included in this Report.

Available Information

We are subject to the reporting and information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and as a result are obligated to file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements, and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). We make these filings available free of charge on our website (<http://www.blue-bird.com>) as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file them with, or furnish them to, the SEC. Information on our website does not constitute part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. In addition, the SEC maintains a website (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains our annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy and information statements, and other information we electronically file with, or furnish to, the SEC. Any materials we file with, or furnish to, the SEC may also be read and/or copied at the SEC’s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

Item 1. Business

The Company was incorporated in Delaware on September 24, 2013 as a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC. On February 24, 2015 (the “Closing Date”), the Company consummated a business combination (the “Business Combination”), pursuant to which the Company acquired all of the outstanding capital stock of School Bus Holdings Inc. (“School Bus Holdings” or “SBH”) from The Traxis Group, B.V. (the “Seller”), in accordance with the purchase agreement, dated as of September 21, 2014, by and among the Company, the Seller and, solely for purposes of Section 10.01(a) thereof, Hennessy Capital Partners I LLC (the “HCAC Sponsor”), as amended on February 10, 2015 and February 18, 2015 (as so amended, the “Purchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, the total purchase price was paid in a combination of cash in the amount of \$100 million and 12,000,000 shares of the Company’s common stock, \$0.0001 par value (the “Common Stock”), valued at \$120 million.

In connection with the closing of the Business Combination, the Company changed its name from Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp. to Blue Bird Corporation. Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Report, Blue Bird Corporation shall be referred to as “Blue Bird” or the “Company,” and includes its consolidated subsidiaries.

The following description of our business describes the business historically operated by School Bus Holdings and its subsidiaries under the “Blue Bird” name as an independent enterprise prior to the Business Combination and as subsidiaries of Blue Bird Corporation (formerly Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp.) after the Business Combination.

The periodic reports filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are available free of charge at <http://investors.blue-bird.com>. This includes Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments to those reports. Section 16 filings made with the SEC by any of our executive officers or directors with respect to our Common Stock also are made available free of charge through our website. We post each of these documents on our website as soon as reasonably practicable after it is electronically filed with the SEC. Our reports filed with the SEC may also be found at the SEC’s website at www.sec.gov. The Company’s Common Stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “BLBD”.

The corporate governance information on our website includes our Corporate Governance Principles, Code of Conduct and Ethics and the Charters for each of the Committees of our Board of Directors. Any amendments to our Code of Ethics or waivers granted to our directors and executive officers will be posted on our corporate website.

In addition to the information contained in this Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017 (“2017 Form 10-K Report” or “Report”), information about our Company can be found at <http://investors.blue-bird.com>, including extensive information about our management team, our products and our corporate governance.

The foregoing information regarding our website and its content is for convenience only and not deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Report nor filed with the SEC.

Overview

We are the leading independent designer and manufacturer of school buses, with more than 550,000 buses sold since our formation in 1927 and approximately 180,000 buses in operation today.

We review and present our business in two reportable segments (“segments”) - buses and aftermarket parts. Financial information is reported on the basis that it is used internally by the chief operating decision maker in evaluating segment performance and deciding how to allocate resources to segments. Our President and Chief Executive Officer has been identified as the chief operating decision maker. Our management evaluates the segments based primarily upon revenues and gross profit. See Note 12, *Segment Information*, to the Company’s consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our reportable segments including primary geographic areas in which we earn revenues.

Our performance in recent years has been driven by the implementation of repeatable processes focused on product initiatives, continuous improvement of competitiveness and manufacturing flexibility, and lowering our cost of capital, as described below:

- We launched the industry's first .05g/bhp-hr NOx propane engine, which is 75 percent cleaner than the current emission standard and significantly better for the environment than competitors published offerings. In addition, we have developed electric Type C and Type D buses in collaboration with our electric vehicle development partners Adomani and EDI. Commercial availability for these electric buses is planned for fiscal 2018. Lastly, during fiscal 2017 we commenced work on a major product enhancement program.
- Fiscal 2017 was our first full year of sales of the gasoline powered Type C bus. The market demand for this product was substantial and helped differentiate our products from our competitor's offerings.
- We commenced an initiative with industry leaders to make structural reductions in cost on existing and future products to enhance our cost competitiveness.
- We refinanced our term debt on substantially better terms. The revised terms resulted in a reduction in interest expense of about \$6 million or 3.75 pts per annum. At the same time, we also replaced our \$60 million revolving credit facility with a \$75 million revolving facility, providing more liquidity at lower interest rates.

School buses have typically been powered by diesel engines. However, in 2007, Blue Bird introduced the first OEM-installed, propane-powered Type C school bus. In addition, over the past two fiscal years Blue Bird introduced and began volume selling of Type C gasoline and Type C CNG powered buses. Propane and gasoline are currently the fastest growing powertrain offering in the school bus market. Blue Bird was, until recently, the only manufacturer of propane-powered Type C buses for school districts and remains the only manufacturer of gasoline-powered school buses. Our management believes that the growth of the propane and gasoline share of total school bus sales will accelerate further with the entrance of our two principal competitors (Thomas Built Bus and IC Bus) into this market. Although propane-powered school buses require some dedicated infrastructure and are somewhat more expensive on a per unit basis than diesel, they are significantly less expensive to operate. Over the lifetime of a school bus, the fuel and maintenance cost savings from the use of propane-powered engines can be substantial. In addition, propane-powered buses are aligned with the increased national focus on green technologies and improving the environment as they generate significantly less emissions than diesel buses. Further, domestically sourced propane gas reduces dependence on foreign sources of oil. Blue Bird is also a leading manufacturer of school buses fueled by CNG. In the school bus industry, CNG is a niche product that is attractive to customers in certain markets that contain an existing refueling infrastructure. CNG requires significantly higher upfront refueling infrastructure investment and higher acquisition cost compared with propane. CNG-powered buses are typically only sold in states that offer significant grants for clean fuel solutions, such as California. To help reduce the upfront investment, we introduced a CNG solution in our Type C bus. This provides a lower product acquisition price for customers who have access to CNG fueling stations.

As a result of the concentration of Blue Bird's sales in the school bus industry in the United States and Canada, our operations are affected by national, state and local economic and political factors that impact spending for public and, to a lesser extent, private education. However, unlike the discretionary portion of school budgets, the offering of school bus services is typically viewed as a mandatory part of the public infrastructure across the United States and Canada, ensuring that funding for new school buses receives some level of priority in all economic climates. All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the 13 Canadian Provinces have fleets of school buses in operation.

Bus Segment

Our buses are sold through an extensive network of 50 United States and Canadian dealers that, in their territories, are exclusive to our Company on Type C and D school buses. We also sell directly to major fleet operators, the United States Government, state governments and authorized dealers in a number of foreign countries.

In fiscal 2017, we sold 11,317 buses throughout the world. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" for discussion of our unit volumes.

Approximately 93% of our buses sold in fiscal 2017 were sold through distributors and dealers ("dealerships"). The Company holds no equity or control position in any dealerships or distributors.

We design, engineer, manufacture and sell three types of buses (Type C school buses, Type D school buses and specialty buses). Each of our Type C and Type D buses is manufactured and assembled on its own dedicated purpose-built chassis in Fort Valley, Georgia. Regardless of specifications, all school bus bodies that we manufacture include our signature 14-gauge one piece steel bows roof system, complemented by a rugged and sturdy floor structure.

Specialty buses include school buses that are converted to suit applications required by the United States Government, state and local

governments and various customers for commercial and export markets. We also sell a “Sigma” bus that is developed for public transportation using our school bus chassis and a purpose-built body supplied by Autopartes Y Componentes, S.A. (“AYCO”) in Mexico. The “Sigma” bus is sold primarily to customers in Central and South America.

The Blue Bird Micro Bird by Girardin Type A bus is produced through Micro Bird Holdings, Inc., an unconsolidated Canadian joint venture with Groupe Autobus Girardin LTEE (“*Micro Bird*”), and is sold through our dealer network. This is a smaller bus than the Type C or Type D bus and is produced on a chassis provided by either Ford or GM.

Aftermarket Parts Segment

Aftermarket parts are key for routine maintenance, replacement of parts that are damaged in service and replacement of parts that suffer from wear and tear through the useful life of the vehicle.

In fiscal 2017, aftermarket parts sales represented 6.0% of Company net sales.

We maintain a parts distribution center in Delaware, Ohio that fills demand for our Company specific and all-makes parts. Additional demand for aftermarket parts is fulfilled by drop ship and direct sales. To fulfill demand for parts that are not maintained at the distribution center, we are linked to approximately 35 suppliers that ship directly to dealers and independent service centers.

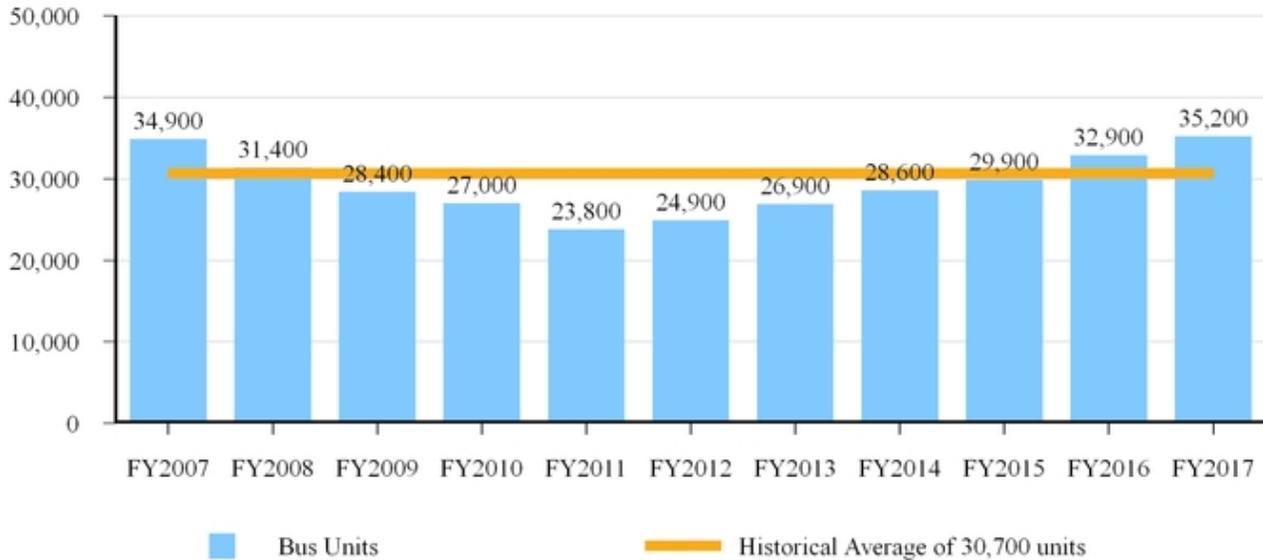
Our 50 dealers have approximately 250 aftermarket parts and service locations across the United States and Canada, the majority of which are owned by independent operators, to complement their primary locations. Field service engineers provide technical support to our dealer network. As of the end of fiscal 2017, service engineers had an average of 25 years of experience with our Company and are strategically placed throughout the United States and Canada to serve both dealers and end-customers better. The network leverages our parts inventory, technical training and online warranty network to address customer service needs.

Our Industry

The school bus serves a critical role in the United States and Canadian education systems. According to School Transportation News, nearly 50 percent of the U.S. student population rides a school bus. The United States and Canadian fleet of approximately 550,000 Type C/D school buses transports approximately 26 million children daily. School buses are distinguished from other types of buses by design characteristics associated with increased safety as mandated by federal, state and municipal regulations.

The United States and Canadian school bus industry for Type C and D buses has averaged approximately 30,700 unit sales annually between 1985 and 2017. Unit sales for fiscal 2017 are projected to be about 35,200, an increase of 7.0% versus fiscal 2016.

United States and Canada School Bus Sales - Type C & D



Source: Historical registration data are based on R.L. Polk vehicle registration data.

The low point in the industry occurred in 2011, at approximately 23,800 units, and was the result of the decline in the United States economy and, in particular, the collapse of the housing market in 2008 and 2009. Property tax receipts were impacted in the 2010-2011 period as a result of the substantial dislocation in the United States economy in general, and housing market in particular, preceding and during that period.

The school bus industry is currently in recovery, supported by positive demographic trends. Our management believes, based on our industry forecast model developed using R.L. Polk school bus registration data and considering population changes of school age children, that Type C and Type D school bus registrations are expected to grow by 1% to 2% annually between fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2020. Our management believes that there will be a continued recovery for the school bus industry. We believe that (i) the industry has been operating below its historical long-term average of approximately 30,700 unit sales per year since the recession - fiscal 2017 is only the second year since the recession in which unit sales exceeded this historical average, signaling the ability of the industry to now address the pent-up demand accumulated from fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2015, during which the industry made below-average annual purchases, (ii) there are approximately 150,000 buses in the United States and Canadian fleets that have been in service for 15 or more years, and (iii) the population of school age children is growing.

Local property and municipal tax receipts are key drivers of school district transportation budgets. Budgets for school bus purchases are directly related to property tax receipts, which are projected to continue a recovery that began in 2012. According to one organization - CoreLogic, Haver Analytics and Macroeconomic Advisers - United States housing prices have increased 6.4% annually since 2011 and are projected to continue to rise through 2025. The forecasted continued appreciation in housing prices is expected to have a positive effect on property tax receipts going forward and school transportation budgets are expected to directly benefit from increasing municipal spending budgets. We believe that incremental demand may be achieved as a result of (i) the average age of a school bus in service (approximately 12 years), and (ii) an increased student population during the period from 2013 to 2018 (based on information from the National Center of Education Studies, we expect total student enrollment in the United States to increase by over 2 million students from 2016 to 2023).

Our management has developed a forecasting model using R.L. Polk vehicle registration data, population of school age children forecasts from the National Center for Education Statistics and bus ridership data collected and published by School Transportation News. Our management utilizes this internally developed model to assess historical experience and to predict demand for school buses in future periods. This model is also the source for all forward-looking market information provided with respect to the United States and Canadian school bus industry in this Report. The ability to purchase new buses to fulfill predicted demand, however, is based on the assumption that funds will be available through property taxes and other state sources. Should there be a significant downturn in property tax collections or in the availability of funds from other state sources, growth in the school bus industry could flatten or decline.

Our Competitive Strengths

We believe that our competitive strengths are derived from the following factors:

Reputation for safety, product quality/reliability/durability, and drivability. Our longevity and reputation in the school bus industry have made us an iconic American brand. We are the only principal manufacturer with chassis and body production specifically designed for school bus applications and the only school bus company to offer compliance with industry recognized safety tests-Altoona Testing, Colorado Rack Test and the Kentucky Pole Test-as a standard specification across our entire product line.

Alternative fuel leadership. We are the market leader in propane, gasoline and CNG fuel powered-buses, having sold approximately eight times more alternative fuel school buses than all of our competitors combined over the period from fiscal 2010 through fiscal 2017. In fiscal 2017 we sold 3,888 propane, gasoline and CNG powered buses, an increase of 40% versus the prior year.

Innovative product leadership. We have consistently led the school bus industry with innovative product leadership through several industry firsts, including the first Type D CNG school bus, the first unique school bus chassis and the first OEM-manufactured propane bus. During fiscal 2016, we launched the industry's only gasoline powered Type C bus (utilizing an exclusive Ford and Roush Cleantech powertrain) and we were first-to-market with Electronic Stability Control, the new Cummins V8 ISV Diesel engine and Eaton transmissions as available options. We introduced a Type C CNG powered bus in fiscal 2016 based on the exclusive Ford and Roush CleanTech powertrain. In fiscal 2017, we introduced the Type C and Type D electric vehicle offerings which we expect to be commercially available in fiscal 2018. Research and development costs were \$7.0 million and \$5.4 million for the fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Strong distribution model. We have built an extensive, experienced network of 50 dealers to distribute our buses across the United States and Canada, and during recent years have significantly enhanced our relationships with large fleet operators. Our dealers have an average tenure of more than 27 years with us and do not sell competing Type C or D school bus products in the areas assigned to them by us.

Highly-skilled and committed workforce. We benefit from a highly-skilled, committed hourly workforce of approximately 1,988 people (full-time and part-time hourly employees) that support our customized assembly operations at our 900,000 square foot integrated chassis manufacturing and body assembly facility and 340,000 square foot component fabrication facility. Our employees are trained to maximize production efficiency by following customized processes developed by us.

Strong management team. We are led by a highly experienced and committed management team with an established track record in the United States and Canadian school bus industry.

Sales Volume

In fiscal 2017, we sold 11,317 Type C/D buses, including 10,867 school buses, 194 commercial buses, 39 export buses and 217 GSA (Government Services Administration) buses. Our Type C school bus accounted for 78% of unit sales and our Type D school bus accounted for 18% of unit sales. Commercial, GSA and export buses, which can be ordered with either the Type C or Type D chassis, accounted for the remaining 4% of unit sales.

Our Dealer Network

During fiscal 2017, we sold approximately 93% of our vehicles through our United States and Canadian dealer network, currently consisting of 50 dealers that, in their territories, are exclusive to us with Type C and D school buses. School buses sold in the United States and Canada through our dealer network are purchased by school districts and private schools, as well as small and medium size contractors that provide services to school districts on a fee basis. Bus purchases and contractor fees are funded through local school district budgets. Purchases of school buses are typically made through a bid process at the district or state level, with dealers coordinating this process. Dealers develop collaborative relationships with school districts, district transportation directors and key officials in their states.

Our dealers have access to financing through Blue Bird Capital Services (“BBCS”), a private-label financing product maintained by an independent third party, De Lage Landen, a member of the Rabobank Group. In September 2017, we signed a contract with TCF Inventory Finance, Inc. under substantially similar terms as De Lage Landen. We do not assume any balance sheet risk with respect to this type of financing and do not receive any direct economic benefit from BBCS.

Other Distribution Channels

Fleet Operators. We also sell school buses directly to large national fleets that span multiple states and such sales are managed internally by our National Account Sales Team.

Export Dealers. We regularly monitor opportunities to sell our Type C and Type D buses in either school bus or other configurations in international markets and typically sell these products through dealers assigned to those territories. Additionally, the Blue Bird Sigma Forward Engine chassis is specifically designed for foreign transit applications and has been sold successfully in Bogota, Colombia.

U.S. Government; Other Specialty Sales. We also sell buses through our United States General Services Administration (“GSA”) contract, an expedited procurement procedure designed to meet the needs of bus customers authorized to purchase through the GSA contracting offices, including the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This full line of bus models is configured for adult or school bus use. In addition to the base GSA specifications, we offer several additional configurations to provide a wide range of passenger capacities and optional features. We also offer a full line of activity bus and Multi-Function School Activity Bus (“MFSAB”) products. With varying vehicle sizes, capacities, fuel choices, and engine types, our bus options enable our customers to tailor their transportation solutions to their specific needs, be it transporting a church congregation or shuttling workers to job sites.

Government Contracts

As a U.S. government contractor, we are subject to specific regulations and requirements as mandated by our contracts. These regulations include Federal Acquisition Regulations, Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations and the Code of Federal Regulations. We are also subject to routine audits and investigations by U.S. government agencies such as the Defense Contract Management Agency and Defense Contract Audit Agency. These agencies review and assess compliance with contractual requirements, cost structure, cost accounting, and applicable laws, regulations, and standards.

A portion of our existing U.S. government contracts extend over multiple years and are conditioned upon the continuing availability of congressional appropriations. In addition, our U.S. government contracts generally permit the contracting government agency to terminate the contract, in whole or in part, either for the convenience of the government or for default based on our failure to perform under the contract.

Suppliers

We purchase our engine and transmission components on a single-source basis from major OEM manufacturers with sophisticated engineering, production and logistics capabilities, as reflected in the table below:

Component	OEM Supplier
Diesel engines	Cummins Inc.
Diesel emissions kits	Cummins Inc.
Propane and gasoline engines and transmissions	Ford Motor Company
Diesel transmissions	Allison Transmission
Propane and gasoline fueling kits	Roush CleanTech

Our purchasing department continually works to improve our purchasing processes by rationalizing the supplier base (reducing the supplier base by approximately one-third in the last five years) and by implementing improved control processes. We regularly perform supplier audits and, when necessary, will meet with underperforming suppliers in order to enhance performance. At September 30, 2017, we had in place long-term supply contracts (addressing both component price and supply) covering over 85% of the value of our purchases from suppliers, including long-term agreements with our major single-source suppliers.

Based on our experience to date and our relationships with our suppliers, we do not expect to be subject to sustained shortages on any material components, whether or not single-sourced.

Competition

The school bus industry is highly competitive. Our two principal competitors are Thomas Built Bus and IC Bus. Thomas Built Bus is a subsidiary of Daimler Trucks North America and IC Bus is a subsidiary of Navistar International.

We compete primarily on the basis of price, product diversification, school bus innovation, safety, quality, durability and drivability of our products, and the scope and strength of our dealer network. As our principal competitors are parts of larger corporations, our competitors may have greater access to financial capital, human resources and business opportunities. Such access, in turn, may be used by such companies to compete with us and others in the industry.

Facilities

We operate a fabrication plant and an integrated chassis manufacturing and body assembly plant in Fort Valley, Georgia, where we manufacture components and assemble Type C, Type D and specialty buses. We also operate a parts distribution center located in Delaware, Ohio. We own our facilities in Fort Valley, Georgia (approximately 1.2 million square feet) and lease our facility in Delaware, Ohio (approximately 0.2 million square feet). Our Micro Bird joint venture leases its facility (0.1 million square feet) in Drummondville, Quebec.

Intellectual Property and Technology

We seek trademark protection in the United States and outside of the United States where available and when appropriate. Among other trademarks, we have registered trademark rights in the principal names and designs used by us and Micro Bird in the United States, Canada and elsewhere. We use these registered marks in connection with all aspects of our branding. However, we also rely on a number of significant unregistered trademarks and other unregistered intellectual property in the day-to-day operation of our business. Without the protections afforded by registration, our ability to protect and use our trademarks and other unregistered intellectual property may be limited and could negatively affect our business.

In addition to trademarks, we rely heavily on trade secrets and know-how to develop and maintain our competitive position. For example, significant aspects of our product designs, manufacturing processes and cost containment steps are based on unpatented trade secrets and know-how. Trade secrets and know-how can be difficult to protect. We seek to protect our proprietary technology and processes, in part, by confidentiality agreements with our employees, suppliers and other commercial partners. These agreements are designed to protect our proprietary information. We also seek to preserve the integrity and confidentiality of our data, designs and trade secrets by maintaining physical security of our premises and physical and electronic security of our information technology systems. While we have confidence in these individuals, organizations and systems, agreements or security measures may be breached, and we may not have adequate remedies for any breach. In addition, our trade secrets may otherwise become known or be independently discovered by competitors. To the extent that our suppliers or contractors use intellectual property owned by others in their work for us, disputes may arise as to the rights in related or resulting know-how.

Government Regulation

Our products must satisfy various legal, environmental, health and safety requirements at federal, state and municipal levels. Compliance with such requirements adds to the costs that must be incurred in order to manufacture a school bus. Failure to comply with such requirements could lead to substantial additional regulatory costs.

At the federal level, "FMVSS," or Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, govern the safety of all motor vehicles sold for use in the United States. More than half of the FMVSS regulations apply to school buses. For example, federal regulations require school buses to be painted "school bus yellow" and to be equipped with specific warning and safety devices. School buses are also built with the body on top of chassis frame rails. This so-called "high floor" construction moves the passenger compartment above the typical automotive "crash zone" and therefore provides an added measure of safety should a collision occur. Steel rollover cages and heavy duty bumpers are designed to provide incremental protection, in contrast with standard transit buses with "low floor" construction that offer lower curb height access with limited or no steel reinforcement.

After a school bus is sold, regulation of the operation of the school bus becomes the responsibility of the state in which it operates. Today, each state has its own rules and regulations pertaining to the manufacture, design, operation and safety of the school buses operated in their jurisdictions. As a result, we cannot manufacture to a single set of specifications, but rather must assure that each bus that is manufactured conforms to the specifications of the particular jurisdiction in which it will be operated.

We must also consider the rules and regulations of foreign jurisdictions. In Canada, where our Micro Bird joint venture operates, school buses are governed by the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations. These regulations are patterned after the FMVSS regulations, although differences do exist between the two regulatory systems.

Seasonality

Our business is highly seasonal. Most school districts seek to buy their new school buses so that they will be available for use on the first day of the school year, typically in mid-August to early September. As a result, our two busiest quarters are our third and fourth fiscal quarters, the latter ending on the Saturday closest to September 30. Our quarterly results of operations, cash flows, and liquidity are likely to be impacted by these seasonal patterns. For example, our revenues are typically highest in our third and fourth fiscal quarters. Working capital, on the other hand, is typically a significant use of cash during the first fiscal quarter and a significant source of cash generation in the fourth fiscal quarter. We typically conduct planned shutdowns during our first fiscal quarter.

Environmental Matters

We are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment and health and safety, including those regulating the following: soil, surface water and groundwater contamination; the generation, storage, handling, use, disposal and transportation of hazardous materials; the emission and discharge of materials, including greenhouse gases (“GHGs”) into the environment; and the health and safety of our employees. We are also required to obtain environmental permits from governmental authorities for certain operations. We have taken various steps to comply with these numerous and sometimes complex laws, regulations and permits. Compliance with environmental requirements historically has not had a material impact on our capital expenditures, earnings, or competitive position. We have made, and will continue to make, capital and other expenditures pursuant to such requirements. If we violate or fail to comply with these requirements, we could be subject to fines, penalties, enforcement actions or lawsuits.

For additional information regarding potential remediation at Blue Bird’s Fort Valley, Georgia facility, see Item 1A. “Risk Factors-Risk Factors Relating to Our Business and Industry-Environmental obligations and liabilities could have a negative impact on our financial condition, cash flows and profitability.”

Environmental laws, regulations, and permits and the enforcement thereof, change frequently and have become more stringent over time. Among other things, more rigorous GHG emission requirements are in various stages of development. For example, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“U.S. EPA”) has promulgated the GHG Reporting Rule, which requires reporting of GHG data and other relevant information from large sources and suppliers in the United States, and the GHG Tailoring Rule, which requires certain facilities with significant GHG emissions to obtain emissions permits under the authority of the Clean Air Act (typically limited to only the largest stationary sources of GHGs). The United States Congress has also considered imposing additional restrictions on GHG emissions. Any additional regulation of GHG emissions by either the United States Congress and/or the U.S. EPA could include a cap-and-trade system, technology mandate, emissions tax, reporting requirement, or other program and could subject us to significant costs, including those relating to emission credits, pollution control equipment, monitoring, and reporting, as well as increased energy and raw material prices.

Our facilities and operations could in the future be subject to regulation related to climate change and climate change itself may also have some impact on the Company’s operations. However, these impacts are currently uncertain and the Company cannot predict the nature and scope of those impacts.

Research and Development

Research and development costs were \$7.0 million and \$5.4 million for the fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016, respectively. Refer to Note 2, *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Recently Issued Accounting Standards*, to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for further information on research and development.

Warranty

We provide warranties on all of the buses and parts we sell. Warranties are offered for specific periods of time and mileage, and vary depending upon the type of product and the geographic location of its sale. Pursuant to these warranties, we will repair, replace, or adjust all parts on a bus that are defective in factory-supplied materials or workmanship during the specified warranty period. In addition to the costs associated with this warranty coverage provided on our vehicles, we also incur costs as a result of field service actions (i.e., safety recalls and service bulletins), and customer satisfaction actions.

Legal Proceedings

We are engaged in legal proceedings in the ordinary course of our business. Although no assurances can be given about the final outcome of pending legal proceedings, at the present time our management does not believe that the resolution or outcome of any of our pending legal proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, liquidity or results of operations.

Backlog

We define order backlog ("backlog") as orders received but yet to be built and sold as of the end of the fiscal period. The backlog may be cancellable within a certain period and may not represent guarantees of purchases by customers or dealers.

The following table provides our worldwide backlog:

<i>(dollars in millions)</i>	Units	Value
2017	1,446	\$ 128.7
2016	1,193	\$ 102.9

Employees

At September 30, 2017, we employed 2,311 employees, consisting of 2,006 full-time and part-time hourly and 305 salaried employees. Our workforce is non-union.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the following risk factors in addition to the other information included in this Report, including matters addressed in the section entitled “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.” We may face additional risks and uncertainties that are not presently known to us, or that we currently deem immaterial, which may also impair our business. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes to the financial statements included in this Report.

Risk Factors Relating to Our Business and Industry

General economic conditions in the markets we serve have a significant impact on demand for our buses.

The school bus market is predominantly driven by long-term trends in the level of spending by municipalities. The principal factors underlying spending by municipalities are housing prices, property tax levels, municipal budgeting issues and voter initiatives. Demand for school buses is further influenced by overall acquisition priorities of municipalities, availability of school bus financing, student population changes, school district busing policies, price and other competitive factors, fuel prices and environmental regulations. Significant deterioration in the economic environment, housing prices, property tax levels or municipal budgets could result in fewer new orders for school buses or could cause customers to seek to postpone or reduce orders, which could result in lower revenues, profitability and cash flows.

Our products may not achieve or maintain market acceptance or competing products could gain market share, which could adversely affect our competitive position.

We operate in a highly competitive domestic market. Our principal competitors are Thomas Built Bus (owned by Daimler Trucks North America) and IC Bus (owned by Navistar International), which, at the consolidated level, have potential access to more technical, financial and marketing resources than our Company. Our competitors may develop or gain access to products that are superior to our products, develop methods of more efficiently and effectively providing products and services, or adapt more quickly than we do to new technologies or evolving customer requirements. Both Thomas Built Bus and IC Bus sell propane-powered school buses. This brings Thomas Built Bus and IC Bus into direct competition with our propane-powered school buses. Our competitors may achieve cost savings or be able to withstand a substantial downturn in the market because their businesses are consolidated with other vehicle lines. In addition, our competitors could be, and have been in the past, vertically integrated by designing and manufacturing their own components (including engines) to reduce their costs. The school bus market does not have “Buy America” regulations, so competitors or new entrants to the market could manufacture school buses in more cost-effective jurisdictions and import them to the United States to compete with us. Any increase in competition may cause us to lose market share or compel us to reduce prices to remain competitive, which could result in reduced sales and earnings.

We continue to optimize our product offerings to meet customer needs and specifications. While we target product offerings to meet customer needs, there is no assurance that our product offerings will be embraced and that we will meet our sales projections.

Our business is cyclical, which has had, and could have future, adverse effects on our sales and results of operations and lead to significant shifts in our results of operations from quarter to quarter that make it difficult to project long-term performance.

The school bus market historically has been and is expected to continue to be cyclical. This cyclicity has an impact both on the school bus industry and also on the comparative analysis of quarterly results of our Company.

Customers historically have replaced school buses in lengthy cycles. Moreover, weak macroeconomic conditions can adversely affect demand for new school buses and lead to an overall aging of school bus fleets beyond a typical replacement cycle. While United States and Canadian demand for school buses has steadily increased since 2011, that increase may be partially attributable to the lower volume of purchases during the sustained downturn from 2007 to 2011 and historically low industry sales in 2011. To the extent the increase in school bus demand is attributable to pent-up demand rather than overall economic growth, future school bus sales may lag behind improvements in general economic conditions or property tax levels.

During downturns, we may find it necessary to reduce line rates and employee levels due to lower overall demand. An economic downturn may reduce, and in the past has reduced, demand for school buses, resulting in lower sales volumes, lower prices and decreased profits.

Primarily as a result of the seasonal nature of our business, we operate with negative working capital for significant portions of our fiscal year. During economic downturns, this tends to result in our utilizing a substantial portion of our cash reserves. On the other hand, when economic factors favor growth in the school bus industry, we can be positioned to generate significant sums of cash.

We may be unable to obtain critical components from suppliers, which could disrupt or delay our ability to deliver products to customers.

We rely on specialist suppliers for critical components (including engines, transmissions and axles) and replacement of any of these components with like parts from another supplier normally requires engineering and testing procedures, which entail costs and take time. The lack of ready-to-implement alternatives could give such suppliers, some of which have substantial market power, significant leverage over us if these suppliers elected to exert their market power over us, which leverage could adversely impact the terms and conditions, including pricing and delivery schedules, pursuant to which we purchase these products from these suppliers.

We seek to mitigate the risk of losing supply from our key suppliers by entering into long-term agreements, and by commencing contract negotiations with suppliers of critical components significantly before contract expiration dates. We have also diversified the suppliers of key components such as engines and transmissions.

If any of our critical component suppliers limit or reduce the supply of components due to commercial reasons, financial difficulties or other problems that prevent them from supplying us with the necessary components, we could experience a loss of revenues due to our inability to fulfill orders. These single-source and other suppliers are each subject to quality and performance issues, materials shortages, excess demand, reduction in capacity and other factors that may disrupt the flow of goods to us or to our customers, which would adversely affect our business and customer relationships.

We have no guaranteed supply arrangements with our suppliers and there can be no assurance that these suppliers will continue to meet our requirements. If supply arrangements are interrupted, we may not be able to find another supplier on a timely or satisfactory basis. We may incur significant set-up costs, delays and lag time in manufacturing should it become necessary to replace any key suppliers due to work stoppages, shipping delays, financial difficulties, natural or man-made disasters, cyber-attacks or other factors. In addition, strikes, work stoppages or other types of conflicts with labor organizations or employees at a supplier's facility could delay the production and/or development of the components that they supply to us, which could strain relationships with our customers and cause a loss of revenues which could materially adversely affect our operations. Our business interruption insurance coverage may not be adequate for any such factors that we could encounter and may not continue to be available in amounts and on terms acceptable to us. Production delays could, under certain circumstances, result in penalties or liquidated damages in certain of our General Services Administration ("GSA") contracts. In addition to the general risks described above regarding interruption of supplies, which are exacerbated in the case of single-source suppliers, the exclusive supplier of a key component potentially could exert significant bargaining power over price, warranty claims or other terms relating to a component.

We rely substantially on single-source suppliers which could materially and adversely impact us if they were to interrupt the supply of component parts to us.

We currently rely on a limited number of single-source suppliers for important component parts. Our major single-source suppliers are Cummins, Inc. and Cummins Emission Solutions (diesel engines and emission components), Ford and Roush CleanTech (propane and gasoline engines, powertrain and up-fit), Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems (control modules), Specialty Manufacturing, Inc. (rubber flooring, step treads, and stop & crossing arms), Paramount Manufacturing Co., Inc. (plastics and fiberglass), TRW Commercial Steering (steering), Lippert Components (windows), and HSM (seat components). Shortages and allocations by such manufacturers may result in inefficient operations and a build-up of inventory, which could negatively affect our working capital position.

New laws, regulations or policies of governmental organizations regarding environmental, health and safety standards, or changes in existing ones, may have a significant negative effect on how we do business.

Our products must satisfy various legal, environmental, health and safety requirements, including applicable emissions and fuel economy requirements. Meeting or exceeding government-mandated safety standards can be difficult and costly. Such regulations are extensive and may, in certain circumstances, operate at cross purposes. While we are managing our product development and production operations to reduce costs, unique local, state, federal and international standards can result in additional costs for product development, testing and manufacturing. We depend on third party sole-source suppliers to comply with applicable emissions and fuel economy standards in the manufacture of engines supplied to us for our buses. Increased environmental, safety, emissions, fuel economy or other regulations may result in additional costs and lag time to introduce new products to market.

Safety or durability incidents associated with a school bus malfunction may result in loss of school bus sales that could have material adverse effects on our business.

The school bus industry has few competitors due to the importance of brand and reputation for safety and durability, compliance with stringent safety and regulatory requirements, an understanding of the specialized product specifications in each region and specialized technological and manufacturing know-how. If incidents associated with school bus malfunction transpired that called into question our reputation for safety or durability, it could harm our brand and reputation and cause consumers to question the safety, reliability and

durability of our products. Lost school bus sales resulting from safety or durability incidents associated with a school bus malfunction could materially adversely affect our business.

Disruption of our manufacturing and distribution operations would have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We manufacture school buses at two facilities in Fort Valley, Georgia and distribute parts from a distribution center located in Delaware, Ohio. If operations at our manufacturing or distribution facilities were to be disrupted for a significant length of time as a result of significant equipment failures, natural disasters, power outages, fires, explosions, terrorism, adverse weather conditions, labor disputes, cyber-attacks or other reasons, we may be unable to fill dealer or customer orders and otherwise meet demand for our products, which would have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Any interruption in production or distribution capability could require us to make substantial capital expenditures to fill customer orders, which could negatively affect our profitability and financial condition. We maintain property damage insurance that we believe to be adequate to provide for reconstruction of facilities and equipment, as well as business interruption insurance to mitigate losses resulting from any production interruption or shutdown caused by an insured loss. However, any recovery under our insurance policies may not offset the lost sales or increased costs that may be experienced during the disruption of operations, which could adversely affect our financial performance. Also, our property damage and business interruption insurance coverage may not be applicable or adequate for any such disruption that we could encounter and may not continue to be available in amounts and on terms acceptable to us.

Rationalization or restructuring of manufacturing facilities, including plant expansions and system upgrades at our manufacturing facilities, may cause production capacity constraints and inventory fluctuations.

The rationalization of our manufacturing facilities has at times resulted in, and similar rationalizations or restructurings in the future may result in, temporary constraints upon our ability to produce the quantity of products necessary to fill orders and thereby complete sales in a timely manner. In addition, system upgrades at our manufacturing facilities that impact ordering, production scheduling and other related manufacturing processes are complex, and could impact or delay production targets. A prolonged delay in our ability to fill orders on a timely basis could affect customer demand for our products and increase the size of our raw material inventories, causing future reductions in our manufacturing schedules and adversely affecting our results of operations. Moreover, our continuous development and production of new products will often involve the retooling of existing manufacturing equipment. This retooling may limit our production capacity at certain times in the future, which could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. In addition, the expansion, reconfiguration, maintenance and modernization of existing manufacturing facilities and the start-up of new manufacturing operations, could increase the risk of production delays and require significant investments of capital.

We may incur material losses and costs related to product warranty claims.

We are subject to product warranty claims in the ordinary course of our business. Our standard warranty covers the bus for one year and certain components for up to five years. We attempt to adequately price ongoing warranty costs into our bus purchase contracts; however, our warranty reserves are estimates and if we produce poor quality products, develop new products with deficiencies or receive defective materials or components, we may incur material unforeseen costs in excess of what we have provided for in our contracts or reserved in our financial statements.

In addition, we may not be able to enforce warranties and extended warranties received or purchased from our suppliers if such suppliers refuse to honor such warranties or go out of business. Also, a customer may choose to pursue remedies directly under its contract with us over enforcing such supplier warranties. In such a case, we may not be able to recover our losses from the supplier.

We may incur material losses and costs as a result of product liability claims and recalls.

We face an inherent risk of exposure to product liability claims if the use of our products results, or is alleged to result, in personal injury and/or property damage. If we manufacture a defective product or if component failures result in damages that are not covered by warranty provisions, we may experience material product liability losses in the future. In addition, we may incur significant costs to defend product liability claims. We could also incur damages and significant costs in correcting any defects, lose sales and suffer damage to our reputation. Our product liability insurance coverage may not be adequate for all liabilities we could incur and may not continue to be available in amounts and on terms acceptable to us. Significant product liability claims could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Moreover, the adverse publicity that may result from a product liability claim or perceived or actual defect with our products could have a material adverse effect on our ability to market our products successfully.

We are subject to potential recalls of our products from customers to cure manufacturing defects or in the event of a failure to comply with customers' order specifications or applicable regulatory standards, as well as potential recalls of components or parts manufactured by suppliers which we purchase and incorporate into our school buses. We may also be required to remedy or retrofit buses in the event

that an order is not built to a customer's specifications or where a design error has been made. Significant retrofit and remediation costs or product recalls could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

A failure to renew dealer agreements or cancellation of, or significant delay in, new bus orders may result in unexpected declines in revenue and profitability.

We rely to a significant extent on our dealers to sell our products to the end consumer. A loss of one or more significant dealers or a reduction in the market share of existing dealers would lead to a loss of revenues that could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our dealer agreements are typically for a five-year term; however, the dealer can usually cancel the agreement for convenience without penalty upon 90 days' notice. While most of our dealers have been purchasing from us for more than two decades, we can provide no assurance that we will be able to renew our dealer agreements on favorable terms, or at all, at their scheduled expiration dates.

If we are unable to renew a contract with one or more of our significant dealers, our revenues and results of operations could be adversely affected until an alternative solution is implemented (e.g., a new dealer or combining the territory with another, existing Blue Bird dealer). If dealer agreements are terminated with one or more of our top 10 dealers, significant orders are canceled or delayed or we incur a significant decrease in the level of purchases from any of our top 10 dealers, our sales and operating results would be adversely impacted. In addition, our new bus orders are subject to potential reduction, cancellation and/or significant delay. Although dealers generally only order buses from us after they have a firm order from a school district, orders for buses are also generally cancelable until 14 weeks prior to delivery.

The inability to attract and retain key personnel could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our ability to operate our business and implement our strategies depends, in part, on the efforts of our executive officers and other key employees. Our future success depends, in large part, on our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel, including manufacturing personnel, sales professionals and engineers. The unexpected loss of services of any of our key personnel or the failure to attract or retain other qualified personnel could have a material adverse effect on the operation of our business.

While we have enjoyed good relations and a collaborative approach with our work force, employment relationships can deteriorate over time. Given the extent to which we rely on our employees, any significant deterioration in our relationships with our key employees or overall workforce could materially harm us. We cannot predict how stable our relationships with our employees will be in the future and we may experience work stoppages or labor organizing activity in the future, which could adversely affect our business. Work stoppages or instability in our relationships with our employees could delay the production and/or development of our products, which could strain relationships with customers and cause a loss of revenues which would adversely affect our operations. In addition, local economic conditions in the Central Georgia area (where both of our principal manufacturing facilities are located) may impact our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel.

Changes in laws or regulations, or a failure to comply with any laws and regulations, may adversely affect our business and results of operations.

We are subject to laws and regulations enacted by national, regional and local governments, including non-U.S. governments. In particular, we are required to comply with certain SEC and other legal requirements, as well as laws and regulations regarding the manufacture of school buses. Compliance with, and monitoring of, applicable laws and regulations may be difficult, time consuming and costly. Those laws and regulations and their interpretation and application may also change from time to time and those changes could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. In addition, a failure to comply with applicable laws or regulations, as interpreted and applied, could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Our products must satisfy a complex compliance scheme due to variability in and potentially conflicting local, state, federal and international laws and regulations. The cost of compliance may be substantial in a period due to the potential for modification or customization of our school buses in any of the 50 plus jurisdictions. In addition, if we expand into more international jurisdictions, we could potentially incur additional costs in order to tailor our products to the applicable local law requirements of such jurisdictions. Further, we must comply with additional regulatory requirements applicable to us as a federal contractor for our GSA contracts, which increases our costs. GSA contracts are also subject to audit and increased inspections and costs of compliance. Any potential penalties for non-compliance with laws and regulations may not be covered by insurance that we carry.

Our expansion plans in markets outside of North America could entail significant risks.

Our strategies potentially include establishing a greater presence in markets outside of North America. In addition, we are growing our use of component suppliers in these markets. As we progress with these strategies, these strategies may involve a significant investment

of capital and other resources and entail various risks. These include risks attendant to obtaining necessary governmental approvals and the construction of the facilities in a timely manner and within cost estimates, the establishment of viable supply channels, the commencement of efficient manufacturing operations and, ultimately, the acceptance of the products by our customers. We cannot be assured that our expansion plans will be implemented or, if implemented, successful.

DIAN, a Colombian governmental taxing agency, has ruled that our Sigma buses must pay tariffs as they are imported into Colombia. The Importer, our dealer in Colombia, has appealed the decision. An adverse outcome would adversely impact any future sales into Colombia.

We sell certain specialty buses in foreign countries including Colombia. Changes to tariffs, duties, and free trade agreements could have a negative impact on our ability to sell buses into those countries at competitive prices. DIAN, a Colombian government taxing agency, has advised us that it has conducted an audit related to the treatment under a free trade agreement of the sale of certain of our buses into Colombia and has issued a negative ruling. That ruling is presently under separate appeal by the importer and exporter of the buses. Although we were neither the importer nor exporter of record of the buses in question, since we sold those buses to a dealer which in turn imported those buses to Colombia, a final adverse finding could result in a determination that would make it significantly more expensive for purchasers of buses in Colombia to purchase our school or specialty buses as compared with buses manufactured domestically or transported into Colombia in a manner that would not raise free trade agreement issues. Any final adverse finding could materially and adversely impact our future sales in Colombia.

Environmental obligations and liabilities could have a negative impact on our financial condition, cash flows and profitability.

Potential environmental violations have been identified at our facility in Fort Valley, Georgia, including the solid waste management units at the facility's old landfill. We are cooperating with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and have conducted a site-wide investigation under the current hazardous waste management law. That investigation revealed several areas requiring further assessment and, potentially, remediation, and the implementation of a corrective action plan is ongoing. The proposed remedial actions to be included in the corrective action plan could range from little to no active remediation to institutional controls (such as barriers, groundwater use restrictions and similar protective devices) or active remedial measures. Potential remediation costs and obligations could require the expenditure of capital and, if greater than expected, or in excess of applicable insurance coverage, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, liquidity or financial condition.

Our worker's compensation insurance may not provide adequate coverage against potential liabilities.

Although we maintain a workers' compensation insurance stop loss policy to cover us for costs and expenses we may incur due to injuries to our employees resulting from work-related injuries over our self-insured limit, this insurance may not provide adequate coverage against potential liabilities as we incur the costs and expenses up to our self-insured limit. In addition, we may incur substantial costs in order to comply with current or future health and safety laws and regulations. These current or future laws and regulations may negatively impact our manufacturing operations. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations also may result in substantial fines, penalties or other sanctions.

Our future competitiveness and ability to achieve long-term profitability depend on our ability to control costs, which requires us to improve our organization continuously and to increase operating efficiencies and reduce costs.

In order to operate profitably in our market, we are continually transforming our organization and rationalizing our operating processes. Our future competitiveness depends upon our continued success in implementing these initiatives throughout our operations. While some of the elements of cost reduction are within our control, others, such as commodity costs, regulatory costs and labor costs, depend more on external factors, and there can be no assurance that such external factors will not materially adversely affect our ability to reduce our costs.

Our operating results may vary widely from period to period due to the sales cycle, seasonal fluctuations and other factors.

Our orders with our dealers and customers generally require time-consuming customization and specification. We incur significant operating expenses when we are building a bus prior to sale or designing and testing a new bus. If there are delays in the sale of buses to dealers or customers, such delays may lead to significant fluctuations in results of operations from quarter to quarter, making it difficult to predict our financial performance on a quarterly basis. Further, if we were to experience a significant amount of cancellations of or reductions in purchase orders, it would reduce our future sales and results of operations.

Our business is subject to seasonal and other fluctuations. In particular, we have historically experienced higher revenues during the third quarter and fourth quarter versus the first quarter and second quarter during each fiscal year. This seasonality is caused primarily by school districts ordering more school buses prior to the beginning of a school year. Our ability to meet customer delivery schedules is dependent on a number of factors including, but not limited to, access to components and raw materials, an adequate and capable workforce,

assembling/engineering expertise for certain projects and sufficient manufacturing capacity. The availability of these factors may in some cases be subject to conditions outside of our control. A failure to deliver in accordance with our performance obligations may result in financial penalties under certain of our GSA contracts and damage to existing customer relationships, damage to our reputation and a loss of future bidding opportunities, which could cause the loss of future business and could negatively impact our financial performance.

Our defined benefit pension plans are currently underfunded and pension funding requirements could increase significantly due to a reduction in funded status as a result of a variety of factors, including weak performance of financial markets, declining interest rates and investments that do not achieve adequate returns.

Our employee benefit plans currently hold a significant amount of equity and fixed income securities. Our future funding requirement for our frozen defined benefit pension plan (“Pension Plan”) qualified with the Internal Revenue Service depends upon the future performance of assets placed in trusts for this plan, the level of interest rates used to determine funding levels, the level of benefits provided for by the Pension Plan and any changes in government laws and regulations. Future funding requirements generally increase if the discount rate decreases or if actual asset returns are lower than expected asset returns, as other factors are held constant. If future funding requirements increase, we would be required to contribute more funds, which would negatively affect our cash flows.

We enter into firm fixed-price school bus sales contracts without price escalation clauses which could subject us to losses if we have cost overruns or if our costs increase.

We often bid on contracts weeks or months before school buses are delivered and enter into school bus sales contracts with fixed prices per bus. The sales contracts generally do not have an indexed price escalation formula to account for economic fluctuations between the contract date and the delivery date. As a result, we typically are unable to pass along increased costs due to economic fluctuations to our customers. We generally purchase steel one quarter in advance, but because we generally do not hedge our other primary raw materials (rubber, aluminum and copper), changes in prices of raw materials can significantly impact operating margins. Our actual costs and any gross profit realized on these fixed-price contracts could vary from the estimated costs on which these contracts were originally based.

Our current or future indebtedness could impair our financial condition and reduce the funds available to us for growth or other purposes. Our debt agreements impose certain operating and financial restrictions, with which failure to comply could result in an event of default that could adversely affect our results of operations.

We have substantial indebtedness. If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund the interest payments on our outstanding borrowings under our credit facility and other debt service obligations and keep us in compliance with the covenants under our debt agreements or to fund our other liquidity needs, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, sell assets or operations, seek additional capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness. We cannot assure investors that we would be able to take any of these actions, that these actions would permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations or that these actions would be permitted under the terms of our existing or future debt agreements, which may impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us and could adversely affect our ability to finance our future operations or capital needs; obtain standby letters of credit, bank guarantees or performance bonds required to bid on or secure certain customer contracts; make strategic acquisitions or investments or enter into alliances; withstand a future downturn in our business or the economy in general; engage in business activities, including future opportunities for growth, that may be in our interest; and plan for or react to market conditions or otherwise execute our business strategies.

If we cannot make scheduled payments on our debt, or if we breach any of the covenants in our debt agreements, we will be in default and, as a result, our lenders could declare all outstanding principal and interest to be due and payable, could terminate their commitments to lend us money and foreclose against the assets securing our borrowings, and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.

In addition, we and certain of our subsidiaries may incur significant additional indebtedness, including additional secured indebtedness. Although the terms of our debt agreements contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, these restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions, and additional indebtedness incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be significant. Incurring additional indebtedness could increase the risks associated with our substantial indebtedness, including our ability to service our indebtedness.

Our profitability depends on achieving certain minimum school bus sales volumes and margins. If school bus sales deteriorate, our results of operations and financial condition will suffer.

Our continued profitability requires us to maintain certain minimum school bus sales volumes and margins. As is typical for a vehicle manufacturer, we have significant fixed costs and, therefore, changes in our school bus sales volume can have a disproportionately large effect on profitability. If our school bus sales were to decline to levels significantly below our assumptions, due to a financial downturn, renewed recessionary conditions, changes in consumer confidence, geopolitical events, inability to produce sufficient quantities of school buses, limited access to financing or other factors, our financial condition and results of operations would be materially adversely affected.

We may need additional financing to execute our business plan and fund operations, which additional financing may not be available on reasonable terms or at all.

Our future growth, including the potential for future market expansion and opportunities for future international growth, may require substantial additional capital. We will consider raising additional funds through various financing sources, including the sale of our equity securities or the procurement of additional commercial debt financing. However, there can be no assurance that such funds will be available on commercially reasonable terms, if at all. If such financing is not available on satisfactory terms, we may be unable to execute our growth strategy, and operating results may be adversely affected. Any additional debt financing will increase expenses and must be repaid regardless of operating results and may involve restrictions limiting our operating flexibility. If we issue equity securities to raise additional funds, the percentage ownership of our existing stockholders will be reduced, and our stockholders may experience additional dilution in net book value per share.

Our ability to obtain financing may be impaired by such factors as the capital markets, both generally and specifically in our industry, which could impact the availability or cost of future financings. If the amount of capital we are able to raise from financing activities, together with our revenues from operations, are not sufficient to satisfy our capital needs, we may be required to decrease the pace of, or eliminate, our future product offerings and market expansion opportunities and potentially curtail operations.

Interest rates could change substantially, materially impacting our profitability.

Our borrowings under our credit facility are at variable rates of interest and expose us to interest rate risk. We do not utilize interest rate hedges or swaps to hedge our interest rate risk. If interest rates increase, our debt service obligations on our variable rate indebtedness would increase even though the amount borrowed remained the same, and our net income and cash available for servicing our other indebtedness would decrease.

In the past we have had material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting. If we do not maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results.

A material weakness is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Though remediated, in prior years we have identified material weaknesses related to information technology controls related to user access, including access to key financial systems and segregation of duties.

Deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting are matters that may require an extended period to remediate. We will continue to evaluate, design and implement policies and procedures to address deficiencies to maintain adequate internal control over financial reporting as a public company.

Internal control over financial reporting, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control objectives will be met. These inherent limitations include system errors, the potential for human error and unauthorized actions of employees or contractors, inadequacy of controls, temporary lapses in controls due to shortfalls in transition planning and oversight or resources, and other factors. Consequently, such controls may not prevent or detect misstatements in our reported financial results as required under SEC and NASDAQ rules, which could increase our operating costs or impair our ability to operate our business. Controls may also become inadequate due to changes in circumstances, and it is necessary to replace, upgrade or modify our internal information systems from time to time.

If management is not successful in maintaining a strong internal control environment, material weaknesses could occur, causing investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information. This could lead to a decline in our stock price, limit our ability to access the capital markets in the future, and require us to incur additional costs to improve our internal control systems and procedures.

An impairment in the carrying value of goodwill and other long-lived intangible assets could negatively affect our operating results.

We have a substantial amount of goodwill and purchased intangible assets on our balance sheet, concentrated in our bus segment and specifically related to the dealer network and our trade name. The carrying value of goodwill represents the fair value of an acquired business in excess of identifiable assets and liabilities as of the acquisition date. The carrying value of other long-lived intangible assets represents the fair value of trademarks and trade names, customer relationships and technology as of the acquisition date. Under generally accepted accounting principles, long-lived assets are required to be reviewed for impairment at least annually, or more frequently if potential interim indicators exist that could result in impairment. If any business conditions or other factors cause profitability or cash flows to significantly decline, we may be required to record a non-cash impairment charge, which could adversely affect our operating results. Events and conditions that could result in impairment include a prolonged period of global economic weakness, a further decline in economic conditions or a slow, weak economic recovery, sustained declines in the price of our Common Stock, adverse changes in

the regulatory environment, adverse changes in the market share of our products, adverse changes in interest rates or other factors leading to reductions in the long-term sales or profitability that we expect.

If Blue Bird Capital Services cannot provide financial services to our dealers and customers to acquire our products, our sales and results of operations could deteriorate.

Our dealers and customers benefit from Blue Bird Capital Services (“BBCS”), a private label financing product. BBCS finances floorplan financing for certain of our network dealers and provides a modest amount of vehicle lease financing to school districts. Although we neither assume any balance sheet risk nor receive any direct economic benefit from BBCS, which is financed by De Lage Landen, a member of the Rabobank Group, we could be materially adversely affected if BBCS were unable to provide this financing and our dealers were unable to obtain alternate financing, at least until we were able to put in place a replacement for BBCS. BBCS faces a number of business, economic and financial risks that could impair its access to capital and negatively affect its business and operations and its ability to provide financing and leasing to our dealers and customers. Because BBCS serves as an additional source of leasing and financing options for dealers and customers, an impairment of BBCS’ ability to provide such financial services could negatively affect our efforts to expand our market penetration among customers who rely on these financial services to acquire new school buses and dealers who seek financing.

We rely heavily on trade secrets to gain a competitive advantage in the market and the unenforceability of our nondisclosure agreements may adversely affect our operations.

Historically, we have not relied upon patents to protect our design or manufacturing processes or products. Instead, we rely significantly on maintaining the confidentiality of our trade secrets and other information related to our operations. Accordingly, we require all executives, engineering employees and suppliers to sign a nondisclosure agreement to protect our trade secrets, business strategy and other proprietary information. If the provisions of these agreements are found unenforceable in any jurisdiction in which we operate, the disclosure of our proprietary information may place us at a competitive disadvantage. Even where the provisions are enforceable, the confidentiality clauses may not provide adequate protection of our trade secrets and proprietary information in every such jurisdiction.

We require training sessions for our employees regarding the protection of our trade secrets, business strategy and other proprietary information. Our employee training may not provide adequate protection of our trade secrets and proprietary information.

We may be unable to prevent third parties from using our intellectual property rights, including trade secrets and know-how, without our authorization or from independently developing intellectual property that is the same as or similar to our intellectual property, particularly in those countries where the laws do not protect our intellectual property rights as fully as in the United States. The unauthorized use of our trade secrets or know-how by third parties could reduce or eliminate any competitive advantage we have developed, cause us to lose sales or otherwise harm our business or increase our expenses as we attempt to enforce our rights.

Our intellectual property rights may not be successfully asserted in the future or may be invalidated, circumvented or challenged.

We rely on a number of significant unregistered trademarks and other unregistered intellectual property in the day-to-day operation of our business. Without the protections afforded by registration, our ability to protect and use our trademarks and other unregistered intellectual property may be limited, which could negatively affect our business in the future.

In addition, while we have not faced intellectual property infringement claims from others in recent years, in the event successful infringement claims are brought against us, particularly claims (under patents or otherwise) against our product design or manufacturing processes, such claims could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operation.

Security breaches and other disruptions to our information technology networks and systems could interfere with our operations and could compromise the confidentiality of our proprietary information, notwithstanding the fact that no such breaches or disruptions have materially impacted us to date.

We rely upon information technology networks and systems, some of which are managed by third-parties, to process, transmit and store electronic information, and to manage or support a variety of business processes and activities, including supply chain management, manufacturing, invoicing and collection of payments from our dealer network and customers. Additionally, we collect and store sensitive data, including intellectual property, proprietary business information, the proprietary business information of our dealers and suppliers, as well as personally identifiable information of our employees, in data centers and on information technology networks. The secure operation of these information technology networks, and the processing and maintenance of this information, is critical to our business operations and strategy. Despite security measures and business continuity plans, our information technology networks and systems may be vulnerable to damage, disruptions or shutdowns due to attacks by hackers or breaches due to errors or malfeasance by employees, contractors and others who have access to our networks and systems, or other disruptions during the process of upgrading or replacing computer software or hardware, power outages, computer viruses, telecommunication or utility failures or natural disasters or other

catastrophic events. The occurrence of any of these events could compromise our networks and the information stored there could be accessed, publicly disclosed, lost or stolen. Any such access, disclosure or other loss of information could result in legal claims or proceedings, liability or regulatory penalties under laws protecting the privacy of personal information, disrupt operations and reduce the competitive advantage we hope to derive from our investment in technology. Our insurance coverage may not be available or adequate to cover all the costs related to significant security attacks or disruptions resulting from such attacks.

Our business could be materially adversely affected by changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

We sell the majority of our buses and parts in United States Dollars. Our foreign customers have exposures to risks related to changes in foreign currency exchange rates on our sales in that region. Foreign currency exchange rates can have material adverse effects on our foreign customers' ability to purchase our products. Further, we have certain sales contracts that are transacted in Canadian Dollars. While we aim to hedge any such transactions, that may not always be the case. As a result, foreign currency fluctuations and the associated translations could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Taxing authorities could challenge our historical and future tax positions as well as our allocation of taxable income among our subsidiaries and affiliates.

The amount of income tax we pay is subject to our interpretation of applicable tax laws in the jurisdictions in which we file. We have taken, and will continue to take, appropriate tax positions based on our interpretation of such tax laws. While we believe that we have complied with all applicable tax laws, there can be no assurance that a taxing authority will not have a different interpretation of the law and assess additional taxes. Should additional taxes be assessed, this may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

The manufacture of our Type A buses is conducted by the Micro Bird joint venture that we do not control and cannot operate solely for our benefit.

The manufacture of Type A buses is carried out by a 50/50 Canadian joint venture, Micro Bird Holdings, Inc., an unconsolidated Canadian joint venture with Groupe Autobus Girardin LTEE ("Micro Bird"). In the future, we may be required to enter into more joint ventures, particularly in emerging economies, in order to enter certain markets. In joint ventures, we share ownership and management of a company with one or more parties who may not have the same goals, strategies, priorities or resources as we do and may compete with us outside the joint venture. Joint ventures are intended to be operated for the equal benefit of all co-owners, rather than for our exclusive benefit. Operating a business as a joint venture often requires additional organizational formalities as well as time-consuming procedures for sharing information and making decisions. In joint ventures, we are required to foster our relationships with co-owners as well as promote the overall success of the joint venture, and if a co-owner changes or relationships deteriorate, our success in the joint venture may be materially adversely affected. The benefits from a successful joint venture are shared among the co-owners, so that we do not receive all the benefits from our joint venture.

Other Risk Factors Relating to an Investment in Our Common Stock

Our only significant asset is ownership of 100% of the capital stock of School Bus Holdings and we do not currently intend to pay cash dividends on our Common Stock. Consequently, stockholders' ability to achieve a return on their investment will depend on appreciation in the price of our Common Stock.

We have no direct operations and no significant assets other than the ownership of 100% of the capital stock of School Bus Holdings. We depend on School Bus Holdings and its subsidiaries for distributions, loans and other payments to generate the funds necessary to meet our financial obligations, including our expenses as a publicly traded company, and to pay any dividends with respect to our Series A Preferred Stock and Common Stock, if any. Legal and contractual restrictions in agreements governing our Series A Preferred Stock and current indebtedness, as well as our financial condition and operating requirements, may limit our ability to obtain cash from School Bus Holdings and its subsidiaries. While we are permitted to pay dividends in certain circumstances under our credit facility, as long as we are in compliance with our obligations under the credit facility, we do not expect to pay cash dividends on our Common Stock. Any future dividend payments are within the absolute discretion of our board of directors and will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, working capital requirements, capital expenditure requirements, financial condition, level of indebtedness, contractual restrictions with respect to payment of dividends, business opportunities, anticipated cash needs, provisions of applicable law and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant.

Concentration of ownership of our Common Stock may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control.

Approximately 50.2% of our Common Stock is owned by ASP Holdings LLC, an entity owned by American Securities LLC ("American Securities") (excluding shares issuable upon conversion of our Series A Preferred Stock and exercise of warrants). As a result, American

Securities has the ability to determine the outcome of corporate actions of our Company requiring stockholder approval. This concentration of ownership may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control and might adversely affect the market price of our Common Stock.

We are dependent upon our executive officers and directors and their departure could adversely affect our business.

Our operations are dependent upon a relatively small group of individuals and, in particular, our executive officers and directors. We believe that our success depends on the continued service of our executive officers and directors. We do not have key-man insurance on the life of any of our directors or executive officers. The unexpected loss of the services of one or more of our directors or executive officers could adversely impact us and the market price of our Common Stock.

Pursuant to the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 (the “JOBS Act”), our independent registered public accounting firm will not be required to attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for so long as we are an “emerging growth company.”

Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act requires annual management assessments of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, and generally requires in the same report a report by the independent registered public accounting firm on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Under the JOBS Act, our independent registered public accounting firm will not be required to attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act until we are no longer an “emerging growth company.” We will be an “emerging growth company” until the earliest of (1) the last day of the fiscal year (a) following January 23, 2019, the fifth anniversary of Hennessy Capital’s initial public offering, or (b) in which we have total annual gross revenues of at least \$1.07 billion, or (2) in which we are deemed to be a large accelerated filer, which means the market value of our Common Stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of the last business day of our prior second fiscal quarter, or (3) the date on which we have issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt during the prior three-year period.

In addition, Section 107 of the JOBS Act also provides that an “emerging growth company” can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act for complying with new or revised accounting standards. An “emerging growth company” can therefore delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have chosen not to “opt out” of such extended transition period, which means that when a standard is issued or revised and it has different application dates for public or private companies, we, as an emerging growth company, can adopt the new or revised standard at the time private companies adopt the new or revised standard. This may make comparison of our financial statements with another public company which is neither an emerging growth company nor an emerging growth company which has opted out of using the extended transition period difficult or impossible because of the potential differences in accounting standards used.

If we do not meet the expectations of investors, stockholders or financial analysts, the market price of our securities may decline.

Fluctuations in the price of our securities could contribute to the loss of all or part of your investment. If an active market for our securities develops and continues, the trading price of our securities could be volatile and subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. Any of the factors listed below could have a material adverse effect on your investment in our securities and our securities may trade at prices significantly below the price you paid for them. In such circumstances, the trading price of our securities may not recover and may experience a further decline.

Factors affecting the trading price of our securities may include:

- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly financial results or the quarterly financial results of companies perceived to be similar to us;
- changes in the market's expectations about our operating results;
- success of competitors;
- our operating results failing to meet the expectation of securities analysts or investors in a particular period;
- changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts concerning us or the school bus market in general;
- operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors deem comparable to us;
- our ability to market new and enhanced products on a timely basis;
- changes in laws and regulations affecting our business;
- commencement of, or involvement in, litigation involving us;
- our ability to access the capital markets as needed;
- changes in our capital structure, such as future issuances of securities or the incurrence of additional debt;
- the volume of shares of our Common Stock available for public sale;
- any major change in our board or management;
- sales of substantial amounts of Common Stock by our directors, executive officers or significant stockholders or the perception that such sales could occur; and
- general economic and political conditions such as recessions, interest rates, fuel prices, international currency fluctuations and acts of war or terrorism.

Broad market and industry factors may materially harm the market price of our securities irrespective of our operating performance. The stock market in general, and NASDAQ in particular, have experienced price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of the particular companies affected. The trading prices and valuations of these stocks, and of our securities, may not be predictable. A loss of investor confidence in the market for manufacturing stocks or the stocks of other companies which investors perceive to be similar to us could depress our stock price regardless of our business, prospects, financial condition or results of operations. A decline in the market price of our securities also could adversely affect our ability to issue additional securities and our ability to obtain additional financing in the future.

Shares of our Common Stock have been registered for resale and shares are reserved for issuance which would have the effect of diluting the existing shareholders.

On April 22, 2015, we registered 6,326,216 Common Stock shares which represents the resale of (i) 4,314,063 shares of common stock that may be issued upon conversion of the Registrant's 7.625% Series A Convertible Preferred Stock (assuming a conversion price of \$11.59 per share), plus (ii) an additional 2,012,153 shares of common stock representing the greater of (a) the number of shares of common stock issuable over the next five years if the Registrant pays all dividends on its Series A Convertible Preferred Stock in shares of common stock (assuming a constant market price of the common stock at \$9.00 per share) and (b) the number of shares of common stock issuable over the next five years if the Registrant pays all dividends on its Series A Convertible Preferred Stock in shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock (the "Series A Dividend Shares") and such Series A Dividend Shares are then converted into shares of common stock (assuming a conversion price of \$11.59 per share). Pursuant to Rule 416, there are also being registered such indeterminable additional shares of common stock as may be issued to prevent dilution as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

On May 28, 2015, we registered 3,700,000 Common Stock shares which represents the common stock issuable under the Blue Bird Corporation 2015 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (the "Incentive Plan") and, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, an indeterminable number of additional shares of common stock issuable under the Incentive Plan, as such amount may be adjusted as a result of stock splits, stock dividends, recapitalizations, anti-dilution provisions and similar transactions. At September 30, 2017, there were 1,215,185 Common Stock shares remaining to be issued under the Incentive Plan.

Warrants are exercisable for our Common Stock, which, if exercised, would increase the number of shares eligible for future resale in the public market and result in dilution to our stockholders.

At September 30, 2017, there were 4,925,186 warrants outstanding to purchase an aggregate of 2,462,593 shares of our Common Stock, each of which is exercisable. Each warrant entitles the holder thereof to purchase one-half of one share of our Common Stock at a price of \$5.75 per half share (\$11.50 per whole share), subject to adjustment. To the extent such warrants are exercised, additional shares of our Common Stock will be issued, which will result in dilution to the then existing holders of our Common Stock and increase the number of shares eligible for resale in the public market. Sales of substantial numbers of such shares in the public market could adversely affect the market price of our Common Stock.

Anti-takeover provisions contained in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as provisions of Delaware law, could impair a takeover attempt.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that could have the effect of delaying or preventing changes in control or changes in our management without the consent of our board of directors. These provisions include:

- no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which limits the ability of minority stockholders to elect director candidates;
- the exclusive right of our board of directors to elect a director to fill a vacancy created by the expansion of the board of directors or the resignation, death, or removal of a director with or without cause by stockholders, which prevents stockholders from being able to fill vacancies on our board of directors;
- subject to any rights of holders of existing preferred shares, the ability of our board of directors to determine whether to issue shares of our preferred stock and to determine the price and other terms of those shares, including preferences and voting rights, without stockholder approval, which could be used to significantly dilute the ownership of a hostile acquirer;
- a prohibition on stockholder action by written consent, which forces stockholder action to be taken at an annual or special meeting of our stockholders;
- the requirement that a special meeting of stockholders may be called only by the chairman of the board of directors, the chief executive officer, or the board of directors, which may delay the ability of our stockholders to force consideration of a proposal or to take action, including the removal of directors;
- limiting the liability of, and providing indemnification to, our directors and officers;
- controlling the procedures for the conduct and scheduling of stockholder meetings;
- providing for a staggered board, in which the members of the board of directors are divided into three classes to serve for a period of three years from the date of their respective appointment or election;
- permitting the removal of directors with or without cause by stockholders voting a majority of the votes cast if, at any time and for so long as, American Securities beneficially owns, in the aggregate, capital stock representing at least 40% of the outstanding shares of our Common Stock;
- advance notice procedures that stockholders must comply with in order to nominate candidates to our board of directors or to propose matters to be acted upon at a stockholders' meeting, which may discourage or deter a potential acquirer from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquirer's own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our Company;
- requiring an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of our entire board of directors and by the holders of at least 66.67% of the voting power of our outstanding voting stock in order to adopt an amendment to our certificate of incorporation if, at any time and for so long as, American Securities beneficially owns, in the aggregate, capital stock representing at least 50% of the outstanding shares of our Common Stock; and
- requiring an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of our entire board of directors or by the holders of at least 66.67% of the voting power of our outstanding voting stock to amend our bylaws if, at any time and for so long as, American Securities beneficially owns, in the aggregate, capital stock representing at least 50% of the outstanding shares of our Common Stock.

These provisions, alone or together, could delay hostile takeovers and changes in control of our Company or changes in our board of directors and management.

As a Delaware corporation, we are also subject to provisions of Delaware law, including Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"), which prevents some stockholders holding more than 15% of our outstanding Common Stock from engaging in certain business combinations without approval of the holders of substantially all of our outstanding Common Stock. Any provision of our certificate of incorporation or bylaws or Delaware law that has the effect of delaying or deterring a change in control could limit the opportunity for our stockholders to receive a premium for their shares of our Common Stock and could also affect the price that some investors are willing to pay for our Common Stock.

We are currently a "controlled company" within the meaning of NASDAQ rules and, as a result, we qualify for, and may choose to rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance requirements.

American Securities currently beneficially owns more than 50% of the voting power of all of our outstanding capital stock. As a result, we are a "controlled company" within the meaning of the rules and corporate governance standards of NASDAQ. Under the NASDAQ rules, a company of which more than 50% of the voting power is held by an individual, group or another company is a "controlled company" and may elect not to comply with certain NASDAQ corporate governance requirements, including:

- the requirement that a majority of our board of directors consists of independent directors;
- the requirement that we have a nominating/corporate governance committee that is composed entirely of independent directors;
- the requirement that we have a compensation committee that is composed entirely of independent directors; and
- the requirement for an annual performance evaluation of the nominating/corporate governance and compensation committees.

Accordingly, if we qualify as a controlled company, we may elect to be treated as such and our stockholders will not be afforded the same protections generally as stockholders of other NASDAQ-listed companies. The interests of our controlling stockholder may conflict with the interests of our other stockholders, and the concentration of voting power in such stockholder will limit our other stockholders' ability to influence corporate matters.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

We operate a fabrication plant and an integrated chassis manufacturing and body assembly plant in Fort Valley, Georgia, where we manufacture components and assemble Type C, Type D and specialty buses. We also operate a parts distribution center located in Delaware, Ohio. We own our facilities in Fort Valley, Georgia (approximately 1.2 million square feet) and lease our facility in Delaware, Ohio (approximately 0.2 million square feet). Our Micro Bird joint venture leases its facility (0.1 million square feet) in Drummondville, Quebec, Canada.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

In the ordinary course of business, we may be a party to various legal proceedings from time to time. We do not believe that there is any pending or threatened proceeding against us, which, if determined adversely, would have a material effect on our business, results of operations, or financial condition.

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

Our Common Stock is currently quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “BLBD”. Through February 24, 2015, our Common Stock, Warrants and Units were quoted under the symbols “HCAC,” “HCACW,” and “HCACU,” respectively. Our Units commenced public trading on January 17, 2014 and our common stock and warrants commenced public trading on March 20, 2014. Upon the consummation of the Business Combination, we separated our Units, which were sold in Hennessy Capital’s initial public offering, into their component securities of one share of Common Stock and one Warrant, and the Units ceased public trading. On June 2, 2015, our Warrants began trading on the over-the-counter market under the symbol “BLBDW”. There is no established trading market for our Series A Convertible Preferred Stock.

The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices of our Common Stock and Warrants for the fiscal periods indicated as reported by the NASDAQ Global Market and over-the-counter market, as applicable.

	Common Stock		Warrants	
	High	Low	High	Low
2017				
Fourth Quarter	\$ 20.60	\$ 16.95	\$ 4.50	\$ 2.75
Third Quarter	19.35	16.70	3.95	2.65
Second Quarter	17.15	15.50	3.00	2.15
First Quarter	17.35	14.10	3.00	1.57
2016				
Fourth Quarter	\$ 15.07	\$ 11.77	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.00
Third Quarter	11.90	9.95	1.20	0.80
Second Quarter	10.85	8.50	1.00	0.50
First Quarter	11.20	10.14	0.95	0.67

At December 4, 2017, there were 100 holders of record of the Company’s Common Stock. Management of the Company believes that there are in excess of 3,000 beneficial holders of our Common Stock.

Dividends

We have not paid any dividends on the Common Stock to date. It is our present intention to retain any earnings for use in our business operations and, accordingly we do not anticipate the board of directors declaring any dividends in the foreseeable future on our Common Stock. In addition, certain of our loan agreements restrict the payment of dividends and the terms of our Series A Convertible Preferred Stock may from time to time prevent us from paying cash dividends on our Common Stock.

Holders of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, cumulative dividends at the rate of 7.625% per annum (the dividend rate) on the \$100 liquidation preference per share of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, payable quarterly in arrears on each dividend payment date. Unless prohibited by applicable law, the Board shall not fail to declare such dividends on the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock. Dividends are paid in cash or, at our option, in additional shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, Common Stock or a combination thereof.

Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table provides information for all equity compensation plans at September 30, 2017, under which the equity securities of the Company were authorized for issuance:

Plan Category (1)	(a) Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants, and Rights	(b) Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	(c) Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	500,601	\$ 10.07	1,215,185

(1) There are no equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders.

Purchases of Common Stock

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, the Company executed purchases for 864,752 shares of its common stock at an average purchase price per share of \$18.23, under the share repurchase program which was authorized in August 2017 by our Board of Directors. The repurchase program allows the Company to spend up to \$50.0 million to repurchase, in open market or private transactions, outstanding common stock, series A convertible preferred stock, and/or warrants over a 24 month period ending August 2019.

The following table provides information regarding the Company's purchase of common stock during the three fiscal months ended September 30, 2017:

Period by fiscal month	Total number of shares purchased	Average price paid per share	Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs	Approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (in thousands)
Repurchases from July 2, 2017 - July 29, 2017	—	—	—	—
Repurchases from July 30, 2017 - August 26, 2017	48,450	\$ 17.77	48,450	\$ 49,140
Repurchases from August 27, 2017 - September 30, 2017	816,302	18.44	816,302	16,007
Total	864,752	\$ 18.23	864,752	\$ 16,007

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The Company reports its operations on a 52-53 week fiscal year ending on the Saturday closest to September 30. The following table sets forth selected consolidated financial data of the Company taking into account completion of the Business Combination and the subsequent change of the Company's fiscal year to the historic fiscal year of School Bus Holdings for each of its four most recent fiscal years, which have been derived from the consolidated financial statements of the Company. See Notes 1, 2, and 4 to the consolidated financial statements for further explanation regarding the effect of the Business Combination and reclassifications.

The historical results presented below are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for any future period. This selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with Item 1A. "Risk Factors", Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations", and the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Item 8. "Financial Statements".

in thousands, except per share data

	Fiscal Year				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS DATA					
Net sales	\$ 990,602	\$ 932,010	\$ 919,128	\$ 855,735	\$ 776,558
Cost of goods sold	863,234	802,654	798,733	746,362	684,109
Gross profit	127,368	129,356	120,395	109,373	92,449
Operating expenses					
Selling, general and administrative expenses	72,831	102,711	84,561	91,445	65,332
Operating profit	54,537	26,645	35,834	17,928	27,117
Interest expense	(7,251)	(16,412)	(19,078)	(6,156)	(2,371)
Interest income	140	133	113	102	214
Other income (expense), net	1	(26)	—	72	96
Loss on debt extinguishment	(10,142)	—	—	—	—
Income before income taxes	37,285	10,340	16,869	11,946	25,056
Income tax (expense) benefit	(11,832)	(5,989)	(4,442)	(10,441)	27,544
Equity in net income of non-consolidated affiliate	3,307	2,877	2,634	1,210	1,767
Net income from continuing operations	28,760	7,228	15,061	2,715	54,367
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax	41	(328)	(129)	42	(159)
Net income	28,801	6,900	14,932	2,757	54,208
Less: preferred stock dividends	4,261	3,878	2,438	—	—
Less: preferred stock repurchase	6,091	—	—	—	—
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 18,449	\$ 3,022	\$ 12,494	\$ 2,757	\$ 54,208
EARNINGS PER SHARE DATA					
Basic earnings per share, continuing operations	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.13	\$ 2.46
Diluted earnings per share, continuing operations	0.74	0.16	0.59	0.13	2.46
BALANCE SHEET DATA					
Total assets	\$ 295,816	\$ 277,866	\$ 266,725	\$ 290,455	\$ 262,446
Long-term debt	143,224	140,366	175,418	209,640	9,470
Total liabilities	354,326	364,840	387,955	439,250	183,028
Total stockholders' (deficit) equity	(58,510)	(86,974)	(121,230)	(148,795)	79,418

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations of the Company should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited financial statements for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2017, October 1, 2016 and October 3, 2015 and related notes appearing elsewhere in this Report. Our actual results may not be indicative of future performance. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements and involves numerous risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, those discussed or incorporated by reference in the sections of this Report titled "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors". Actual results may differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Certain monetary amounts, percentages and other figures included in this Report have been subject to rounding adjustments. Accordingly, figures shown as totals in certain tables may not be the arithmetic aggregation of the figures that precede them, and figures expressed as percentages in the text may not total 100% or, as applicable, when aggregated, may not be the arithmetic aggregation of the percentages that precede them.

We refer to the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017 as "fiscal 2017". We refer to the fiscal year ended October 1, 2016 as "fiscal 2016" and we refer to the fiscal year ended October 3, 2015 as "fiscal 2015". In fiscal years 2017 and 2016, there were a total of 52 weeks. In fiscal year 2015, there was a total of 53 weeks.

Introductory Note

On February 24, 2015, the Company consummated a business combination (the "Business Combination"), pursuant to which the Company acquired all of the outstanding capital stock of School Bus Holdings Inc. ("School Bus Holdings" or "SBH") from The Traxis Group, B.V. (the "Seller"), in accordance with the purchase agreement, dated as of September 21, 2014, by and among the Company, the Seller and, solely for purposes of Section 10.01(a) thereof, Hennessy Capital Partners I LLC (the "HCAC Sponsor"), as amended on February 10, 2015 and February 18, 2015 (as so amended, the "Purchase Agreement"). Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, the total purchase price was paid in a combination of cash in the amount of \$100 million and 12,000,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock valued at \$120 million.

In connection with the closing of the Business Combination, the Company changed its name from Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp. to Blue Bird Corporation. Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Report, Blue Bird Corporation shall be referred to as "Blue Bird" or the "Company," and includes its consolidated subsidiaries.

Pursuant to, and subject to the terms of, a Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of May 26, 2016 (the "Purchase and Sale Agreement"), by and among Seller, ASP BB Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("ASP"), and the Company, Seller agreed to sell and ASP agreed to purchase all of the 12,000,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company owned by Seller (the "Transaction Shares"). Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement, ASP acquired 7,000,000 Transaction Shares at an initial closing on June 3, 2016 for an amount in cash equal to \$10.10 per share and 5,000,000 Transaction Shares at a second closing on June 8, 2016 for an amount in cash equal to \$11.00 per share, for an aggregate purchase price of \$125,700,000. There were no proceeds to the Company from this transaction. The sale of Transaction Shares triggered a phantom equity compensation payment as further discussed in Note 15, *Share-Based Compensation*, to the accompanying consolidated financial statements. This payment was primarily funded by Seller and not by the Company.

Executive Overview

Blue Bird is the leading independent designer and manufacturer of school buses. Our longevity and reputation in the school bus industry have made Blue Bird an iconic American brand. We distinguish ourselves from our principal competitors by dedicating our focus to the design, engineering, manufacture and sale of school buses and related parts. As the only principal manufacturer of chassis and body production specifically designed for school bus applications, Blue Bird is recognized as an industry leader for school bus innovation, safety, product quality/reliability/durability, efficiency, and lower operating costs. In addition, Blue Bird is the market leader in alternative fuel applications with its propane-powered and compressed natural gas ("CNG")-powered school buses.

Blue Bird sells its buses and aftermarket parts through an extensive network of United States and Canadian dealers that, in their territories, are exclusive to Blue Bird on Type C and D school buses. Blue Bird also sells directly to major fleet operators, the United States government, state governments and authorized dealers in a number of foreign countries.

Factors Affecting Our Revenues

Our revenues are driven primarily by the following factors:

- *Property tax revenues.* Property tax revenues are one of the major sources of funding for new school buses. Property tax revenues are a function of land and building prices, relying on assessments of property value by state or county assessors and millage rates voted by the local electorate.
- *Student enrollment.* Increases or decreases in the number of school bus riders has a direct impact on school district demand.
- *Revenue mix.* We are able to charge more for certain of our products (e.g., Type C propane-powered school buses, Type D buses and buses with higher option content) than other products. The mix of products sold in any fiscal period can directly impact our revenues for the period.
- *Strength of the dealer network.* We rely on our dealers, as well as a small number of major fleet operators, to be the direct point of contact with school districts and their purchasing agents. An effective dealer is capable of expanding revenues within a given school district by matching that district's needs to our capabilities, offering options that would not otherwise be provided to the district.
- *Pricing.* Our products are sold to school districts throughout the United States and Canada. Each state and each Canadian province has its own set of regulations that govern the purchase of products, including school buses, by their school districts. We and our dealers must navigate these regulations, purchasing procedures and the districts' specifications in order to reach mutually acceptable price terms. Pricing may or may not be favorable to us, depending upon a number of factors impacting purchasing decisions.
- *Buying patterns of major fleets.* Major fleets regularly compete against one another for existing accounts. Fleets are also continuously trying to win the business of school districts that operate their own transportation services. These activities can have either a positive or negative impact on our sales, depending on the brand preference of the fleet that wins the business. Major fleets also periodically review their fleet sizes and replacement patterns due to funding availability as well as the profitability of existing routes. These actions can impact total purchases by fleets in a given year.
- *Seasonality.* Our sales are subject to seasonal variation based on the school calendar. The peak season has historically been during our third and fourth fiscal quarters. Sales during the third and fourth fiscal quarters are typically greater than the first and second fiscal quarters due to the desire of municipalities to have any new buses that they order available to them at the beginning of the new school year. There are, however, variations in the seasonal demands from year to year depending in large part upon municipal budgets, distinct replacement cycles and student enrollment. This seasonality and annual variations of this seasonality could impact the ability to compare results between fiscal periods.

Factors Affecting Our Expenses and Other Items

Our expenses and other line items in our Consolidated Statements of Operations are principally driven by the following factors:

- *Cost of goods sold.* The components of our cost of goods sold consist of material costs (principally powertrain components, steel and rubber, as well as aluminum and copper), labor expense and overhead. Our cost of goods sold may vary from period to period in part due to changes in sales volume and in part due to efforts by certain suppliers to pass through the economics associated with key commodities, design changes with respect to specific components, design changes with respect to specific bus models, wage increases for plant labor, the productivity of plant labor, delays in receiving materials and other logistical problems and the impact of overhead items such as utilities.
- *Selling, general and administrative expenses.* Our selling, general and administrative expenses include costs associated with our selling and marketing efforts, engineering, centralized finance, human resources, purchasing and information technology services, as well as other administrative matters and functions. In most instances, other than direct costs associated with sales and marketing programs, the principal component of these costs is salary expense. Changes from period to period are typically driven by the number of our employees, as well as by merit increases provided to experienced personnel.
- As a result of the consummation of the Business Combination, we must comply with laws, regulations and requirements for public companies, including certain provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and related SEC regulations, as well as NASDAQ listing requirements. Compliance with the requirements of being a public company increases operating expenses in order to pay employees, legal counsel and accountants to assist us in, among other things, external reporting, instituting and monitoring a more comprehensive compliance and board governance function, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and preparing and distributing periodic public reports in compliance with our obligations under the federal securities laws.

- *Interest expense.* Our interest expense relates to costs associated with our debt instruments and reflects both the amount of indebtedness and the interest rate that we are required to pay on our debt. In December 2016, we entered into a new \$160.0 million first lien credit agreement and a new \$75.0 million revolving credit agreement. Proceeds from the agreement were used to fully extinguish our prior debt obligations.
- *Income taxes.* We make estimates of the amounts to recognize for income taxes in each tax jurisdiction in which we operate. In addition, provisions are established for withholding taxes related to the transfer of cash between jurisdictions and for uncertain tax positions taken.
- *Equity in net income of non-consolidated affiliate.* This line item records our share of income or loss from our investment in Micro Bird, our unconsolidated 50/50 Canadian joint venture.

Key Measures We Use to Evaluate Our Performance

Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin are included in this Report because management views these metrics as a useful way to look at the performance of our operations between periods and to exclude decisions on capital investment and financing that might otherwise impact the review of profitability of the business based on present market conditions.

We define Adjusted EBITDA as net income before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, adjusted to add back restructuring costs, certain management incentive compensation expenses, and special expenses incurred outside the ordinary course of business. We define Adjusted EBITDA margin as Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of net sales. Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin are not measures of performance defined in accordance with GAAP. Our Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin are used as a supplement to GAAP results in evaluating certain aspects of our business, as described below.

We believe that Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin are useful to investors in evaluating our performance because Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin consider the performance of our operations, excluding decisions made with respect to capital investment, financing, and other expenses. We believe that the disclosure of Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin offer additional financial metrics that, when coupled with the GAAP results and the reconciliation to GAAP results, provide a more complete understanding of our results of operations and the factors and trends affecting our business.

Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin should not be considered as alternatives to net income as an indicator of our performance or as alternatives to any other measure prescribed by GAAP. There are limitations to using non-GAAP measures such as Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin. Although we believe that Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin may enhance an evaluation of our operating performance based on recent revenue generation and product/overhead cost control because they exclude the impact of prior decisions made about capital investment, financing, and other expenses, (i) other companies in Blue Bird's industry may define Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin differently than we do and, as a result, they may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies in Blue Bird's industry, and (ii) Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin exclude certain financial information that some may consider important in evaluating our performance.

We compensate for these limitations by providing disclosure of the differences between Adjusted EBITDA and GAAP results, including providing a reconciliation to GAAP results, to enable investors to perform their own analysis of our operating results. Because of these limitations, Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin should not be considered as alternatives to net income as an indicator of our performance, as an alternative to net cash provided by operating activities as a measure of liquidity, or as an alternative to any other measure prescribed by GAAP. Our management compensates for these limitations by analyzing both our GAAP results and non-GAAP measures and using Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin as supplemental financial metrics for evaluation of our operating performance. See our Consolidated Statements of Operations and Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows included elsewhere in this Report.

Our measure of "free cash flow" is a non-GAAP financial measure. Free cash flow is used in addition to and in conjunction with results presented in accordance with GAAP and free cash flow should not be relied upon to the exclusion of GAAP financial measures. Free cash flow reflects an additional way of viewing our liquidity that, when viewed with our GAAP results, provides a more complete understanding of factors and trends affecting our cash flows. We strongly encourage investors to review our financial statements and publicly-filed reports in their entirety and not to rely on any single financial measure.

We define free cash flow as net cash provided in continuing operations less cash paid for fixed assets and acquired intangible assets. We use free cash flow, and ratios based on it, to conduct and evaluate our business because, although it is similar to cash flow from operations, we believe it is a more conservative measure of cash flow since purchases of fixed assets and intangible assets are a necessary component of ongoing operations. In limited circumstances in which proceeds from sales of fixed or intangible assets exceed purchases, free cash flow would exceed cash flow from operations. However, since we do not anticipate being a net seller of fixed or intangible assets, we expect free cash flow to be less than operating cash flows. See "Short-Term and Long-Term Liquidity Requirements" included elsewhere in this Report.

Our Segments

We manage our business in two operating segments, which are also our reportable segments (i) the Bus segment, which involves the design, engineering, manufacture and sales of school buses and extended warranties and (ii) the Aftermarket Parts segment, which includes the sales of replacement bus parts. Financial information is reported on the basis that it is used internally by the chief operating decision maker (“CODM”) in evaluating segment performance and deciding how to allocate resources to segments. The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company has been identified as the CODM. Management evaluates the segments based primarily upon revenues and gross profit.

Consolidated Results of Operations for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2017	2016
Net sales	\$ 990,602	\$ 932,010
Cost of goods sold	863,234	802,654
Gross profit	\$ 127,368	\$ 129,356
Operating expenses		
Selling, general and administrative expenses	72,831	102,711
Operating profit	\$ 54,537	\$ 26,645
Interest expense	(7,251)	(16,412)
Interest income	140	133
Other income (expense), net	1	(26)
Loss on debt extinguishment	(10,142)	—
Income before income taxes	\$ 37,285	\$ 10,340
Income tax expense	(11,832)	(5,989)
Equity in net income of non-consolidated affiliate	3,307	2,877
Net income from continuing operations	\$ 28,760	\$ 7,228
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax	41	(328)
Net income	\$ 28,801	\$ 6,900
Other financial data:		
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 68,904	\$ 72,153
Adjusted EBITDA margin	7.0%	7.7%

The following provides the results of operations of Blue Bird's two reportable segments:

	2017	2016
Net Sales by Segment		
Bus	\$ 930,738	\$ 876,087
Parts	59,864	55,923
Total	\$ 990,602	\$ 932,010
Gross Profit by Segment		
Bus	\$ 106,462	\$ 108,232
Parts	20,906	21,124
Total	\$ 127,368	\$ 129,356

Net sales. Total net sales were \$990.6 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, an increase of \$58.6 million, or 6.3%, compared to \$932.0 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, reflecting an increase in units booked, which were 11,317 units for the fiscal year ended 2017, compared to 10,616 units for the fiscal year ended 2016.

For the bus segment, the average net sales price per unit for the fiscal year ended 2017 was 0.3% lower than the price per unit for the fiscal year ended 2016. This decrease in unit price mainly reflects product and customer mix changes.

Parts sales increased \$3.9 million, or 7.0%, for the fiscal year ended 2017 compared to fiscal year ended 2016 due to the expansion of product offerings as well as new incentive and shipping programs launched in 2017.

Cost of goods sold. Total cost of goods sold was \$863.2 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, an increase of \$60.6 million, or 7.5%, compared to \$802.7 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, reflecting increased bus segment cost of goods sold totaling \$56.4 million, or 7.3%, and increased parts segment cost of goods sold totaling \$4.2 million, or 12.0%. As a percentage of net sales, total cost of goods sold increased from 86.1% to 87.1%.

For the bus segment, the average cost of goods sold per unit for the fiscal year ended 2017 was 0.7% higher compared to the average cost of goods sold per unit for the fiscal year ended 2016. This mainly reflects a change in material costs driven primarily by higher commodity costs.

The \$4.2 million increase in parts segment cost of goods sold for the fiscal year ended 2017 compared to the fiscal year ended 2016 was primarily attributed to increased part sales volume.

Operating profit. Operating profit was \$54.5 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, an increase of \$27.9 million, or 104.7%, compared to \$26.6 million for the fiscal year ended 2016. Profitability was positively impacted by a decrease of \$29.9 million in selling, general and administrative expenses, which was partially offset by a decrease of \$2.0 million in gross profit. Selling, general and administrative expenses for fiscal year ended 2016 included expenses incurred from the change in control transaction, of which \$17.1 million was a non-recurring special compensation expense and \$9.8 million more share-based compensation expense, primarily due to an accelerated vesting of equity awards as a result of the change in control.

Interest expense. Interest expense was \$7.3 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, a decrease of \$9.2 million, or 55.8%, compared to \$16.4 million for the fiscal year ended 2016. The decrease was primarily attributed to the decrease in our effective interest rate resulting from the new credit facility we entered into in December 2016, as well as lower average borrowing levels.

Income tax expense. Income tax expense was \$11.8 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, compared to an income tax expense of \$6.0 million for the fiscal year ended 2016. The increase was primarily due to an increase in pre-tax income.

The effective tax rate for the fiscal year ended 2017 was 31.7%, which differed from the statutory federal income tax rate of 35%, reflecting the benefits of income tax credits, the domestic production activities deduction, and recording a tax windfall from share-based compensation awards exercised, which were offset by the application of tax credits claimed as offsets against our payroll tax liabilities, and interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions. The effective tax rate for the fiscal year ended 2016 was 57.9%, which differed from the statutory federal income tax rate of 35% primarily from discrete items in the period, including interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions, investor tax on our Micro Bird joint venture, limitation on the deductibility of certain share-based compensation, and a net tax shortfall, recorded as expense, associated with the vesting of share-based compensation awards.

Adjusted EBITDA. Adjusted EBITDA was \$68.9 million, or 7.0% of net sales, for the fiscal year ended 2017, a decrease of \$3.2 million, or 4.5%, compared to \$72.2 million, or 7.7% of net sales, for the fiscal year ended 2016. The decrease in adjusted EBITDA was primarily the result of decreased gross profit.

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of net income to adjusted EBITDA for the fiscal years presented:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016
Net income	\$ 28,801	\$ 6,900
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax	41	(328)
Net income from continuing operations	\$ 28,760	\$ 7,228
Interest expense, net	7,111	16,279
Income tax expense	11,832	5,989
Depreciation, amortization, and disposals	8,205	8,118
Loss on debt extinguishment	10,142	—
Special compensation payment	—	17,128
Business combination expenses	(174)	3,798
One-time post-retirement benefit adjustment	—	896
Share-based compensation	1,270	12,717
Product redesign initiatives	1,758	—
Adjusted EBITDA	<u>\$ 68,904</u>	<u>\$ 72,153</u>
Adjusted EBITDA margin (percentage of net sales)	7.0%	7.7%

Consolidated Results of Operations for the fiscal years ended October 1, 2016 and October 3, 2015:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2016	2015
Net sales	\$ 932,010	\$ 919,128
Cost of goods sold	802,654	798,733
Gross profit	\$ 129,356	\$ 120,395
Operating expenses		
Selling, general and administrative expenses	102,711	84,561
Operating profit	\$ 26,645	\$ 35,834
Interest expense	(16,412)	(19,078)
Interest income	133	113
Other expense, net	(26)	—
Income before income taxes	\$ 10,340	\$ 16,869
Income tax expense	(5,989)	(4,442)
Equity in net income of non-consolidated affiliate	2,877	2,634
Net income from continuing operations	\$ 7,228	\$ 15,061
Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax	(328)	(129)
Net income	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,932
Other financial data:		
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 72,153	\$ 69,865
Adjusted EBITDA margin	7.7%	7.6%

The following provides the results of operations of Blue Bird's two reportable segments:

	2016	2015
Net Sales by Segment		
Bus	\$ 876,087	\$ 861,665
Parts	55,923	57,463
Total	\$ 932,010	\$ 919,128
Gross Profit by Segment		
Bus	\$ 108,232	\$ 99,341
Parts	21,124	21,054
Total	\$ 129,356	\$ 120,395

Net sales. Net sales were \$932.0 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, an increase of \$12.9 million, or 1.4%, compared to \$919.1 million for the fiscal year ended 2015, reflecting an increase in units booked, which were 10,616 units for the fiscal year ended 2016, compared to 10,378 units for the fiscal year ended 2015.

For the bus segment, the average net sales price per unit for the fiscal year ended 2016 was 0.6% lower than the price per unit for the fiscal year ended 2015. This decrease in unit price mainly reflects product and customer mix changes.

Parts sales decreased \$1.5 million, or 2.7%, for the fiscal year ended 2016 compared to the fiscal year ended 2015 due to decreased parts sales volume.

Cost of goods sold. Total cost of goods sold was \$802.7 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, an increase of \$3.9 million, or 0.5%, compared to \$798.7 million for the fiscal year ended 2015, reflecting increased bus segment cost of goods sold totaling \$5.5 million, or 0.7%, and decreased parts segment cost of goods sold totaling \$1.6 million, or 4.4%. As a percentage of net sales, total cost of goods sold decreased from 86.9% to 86.1%.

For the bus segment, the average cost of goods sold per unit for the fiscal year ended 2016 was 1.5% lower compared to the average cost of goods sold per unit for the fiscal year ended 2015. This primarily reflects a change in product and customer mix.

The \$1.6 million decrease in parts segment cost of goods sold for the fiscal year ended 2016 compared to the fiscal year ended 2015 was primarily attributed to decreased parts sales volume.

Operating profit. Total operating profit was \$26.6 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, a decrease of \$9.2 million, or 25.6%, compared to \$35.8 million for the fiscal year ended 2015. Profitability was positively impacted by an increase of \$9.0 million in gross profit, which was offset by an increase of \$18.2 million in selling, general and administrative expenses, due primarily to expenses incurred from the change in control transaction in June of 2016, including (1) a special compensation payment, which was \$3.3 million higher compared to 2015, and (2) share-based compensation expense, which was \$11.1 million higher compared to 2015, primarily from the vesting of all outstanding share-based awards in conjunction with the change in control.

Interest expense. Interest expense was \$16.4 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, a decrease of \$2.7 million, or 14.0%, compared to \$19.1 million for the fiscal year ended 2015. The decrease was primarily attributed to lower average borrowing levels.

Income tax expense. Income tax expense was \$6.0 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, compared to income tax expense of \$4.4 million for the fiscal year ended 2015.

The effective tax rate for the fiscal year ended 2016 was 57.9%, which differed from the federal statutory tax rate of 35% primarily from discrete items in the period, including interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions, investor tax on our Micro Bird joint venture, limitation on the deductibility of certain share-based compensation, and a net tax shortfall, recorded as expense, associated with the vesting of share-based compensation awards pursuant to the adoption of ASU 2016-09. The effective tax rate for the fiscal year ended 2015 was 26.3%, which differed from the federal statutory tax rate of 35.0%, primarily as a result of the benefit from the change in our Micro Bird joint venture tax rate, domestic production activities deduction, state tax items and other permanent items, which were partially offset by interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions as well as transaction costs.

Adjusted EBITDA. Adjusted EBITDA was \$72.2 million, or 7.7% of net sales, for the fiscal year ended 2016, an increase of \$2.3 million, or 3.3%, compared to \$69.9 million, or 7.6% of net sales, for the fiscal year ended 2015. The increase in adjusted EBITDA is primarily the result of higher gross profit, partially offset by increased adjusted selling, general and administrative expenses.

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of net income to adjusted EBITDA for the fiscal years presented:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2016	2015
Net income	\$ 6,900	14,932
Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax	(328)	(129)
Net income from continuing operations	\$ 7,228	\$ 15,061
Interest expense, net	16,279	18,965
Income tax expense	5,989	4,442
Depreciation, amortization, and disposals	8,118	9,300
Special compensation payment (1)	17,128	13,788
Public company expenses, non-recurring	—	3,148
Business combination expenses	3,798	3,526
One-time post-retirement benefit adjustment	896	—
Share-based compensation	12,717	1,635
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 72,153	\$ 69,865
Adjusted EBITDA margin (percentage of net sales)	7.7%	7.6%

(1) The special compensation payments for fiscal 2016 and 2015 were primarily funded by contributions from our former majority stockholder concurrent with the June 2016 change in control and the Business Combination, respectively. With the 2016 payment and change in majority ownership, this incentive program has concluded.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Background. The Company's primary sources of liquidity are cash generated from operations, available cash, and borrowings under the credit facility. At September 30, 2017, the Company had \$62.6 million of available cash (net of outstanding checks) and \$67.3 million of additional borrowings available under the revolving line of credit portion of its senior secured credit facilities. The Company's revolving line of credit is available for working capital requirements, capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes.

Indebtedness. On December 12, 2016 (the "Closing Date"), Blue Bird Body Company as the borrower (the "Borrower"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, executed a \$235.0 million five-year credit agreement with Bank of Montreal, which acts as the administrative agent and an issuing bank, Fifth Third Bank, as co-syndication agent and an issuing bank, and Regions Bank, as Co-Syndication Agent, together with other lenders (the "Credit Agreement").

The credit facility provided for under the Credit Agreement consists of a term loan facility in an aggregate initial principal amount of \$160.0 million (the "Term Loan Facility") and a revolving credit facility with aggregate commitments of \$75.0 million. The revolving credit facility includes a \$15.0 million letter of credit sub-facility and \$5.0 million swingline sub-facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility," and together with the Term Loan Facility, each a "Credit Facility" and collectively, the "Credit Facilities"). The borrowings under the Term Loan Facility, which were made at the Closing Date, may not be re-borrowed once they are repaid. The borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility may be repaid and reborrowed from time to time at our election. The proceeds of the loans under the Credit Facilities that were borrowed on the Closing Date were used to finance in part, together with available cash on hand, (i) the repayment of certain existing indebtedness of the Company and its subsidiaries, and (ii) transaction costs associated with the consummation of the Credit Facilities.

The Term Loan Facility and the Revolving Credit Facility each mature on December 12, 2021, which is the fifth anniversary of the effective date of the Credit Agreement. The interest rate on the Term Loan Facility is (i) from the Closing Date until April 1, 2017, an election of either base rate plus 1 point or LIBOR plus 2 points and (ii) commencing with the fiscal quarter ending on April 1, 2017 and thereafter, dependent on the Total Net Leverage Ratio (as defined below) of the Company, an election of either base rate or LIBOR pursuant to the table below:

Level	Total Net Leverage Ratio	ABR Loans	Eurodollar Loans
I	Less than 2.00x	0.75%	1.75%
II	Greater than or equal to 2.00x and less than 2.50x	1.00%	2.00%
III	Greater than or equal to 2.50x and less than 3.00x	1.25%	2.25%
IV	Greater than or equal to 3.00x	1.50%	2.50%

Under the Credit Agreement, the principal of the initial Term Loan Facility must be paid in quarterly installments on the last day of each fiscal quarter, in an amount equal to (i) \$2.0 million per quarter beginning on the last day of the Company's second fiscal quarter in 2017 through the last day of the Company's first fiscal quarter in 2020, (ii) \$3.0 million beginning on the last day of the second fiscal quarter of the Company in 2020 through the last day of the first fiscal quarter of the Company in 2021, and (iii) \$4.0 million beginning on the last day of the second fiscal quarter of the Company in 2021 through the last day of the fourth fiscal quarter of the Company in 2021, with the remaining principal amount due at maturity. The loans under the Credit Facility may be prepaid without penalty or premium. Certain mandatory prepayments in respect of the outstanding loans or the term loans, as applicable, are required, including prepayments from the proceeds of certain dispositions and the incurrence of certain debt obligations, as well as prepayments based on the annual excess cash flow of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The obligations under the Credit Agreement and the related loan documents (including without limitation, the borrowings under the Credit Facilities and obligations in respect of certain cash management and hedging obligations owing to the agents, the lenders or their affiliates), are, in each case, secured by a lien on and security interest in substantially all of the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries including the Borrower, with certain exclusions as set forth in a Collateral Agreement entered into on the Closing Date.

Up to \$75.0 million of additional term loans and/or revolving credit commitments may be incurred under the Credit Agreement (the "Incremental Facility"), subject to certain limitations as set forth in the Credit Agreement. The Incremental Facility is not a committed facility, and would require further commitments from the existing lenders or from new lenders.

There are customary events of default under the Credit Agreement, including, among other things, events of default resulting from (i) failure to pay obligations when due under the Credit Agreement, (ii) insolvency of the Company or its material subsidiaries, (iii) defaults under other material debt, (iv) judgments against the Company or its subsidiaries, (v) failure to comply with certain financial maintenance covenants (as set forth in the Credit Agreement), or (vi) a change of control of the Company, in each case subject to limitations and exceptions as set forth in the Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement contains negative and affirmative covenants affecting the Company and its subsidiaries including the Borrower, with certain exceptions set forth in the Credit Agreement. The negative covenants and restrictions include, among others: limitations on liens, dispositions of assets, consolidations and mergers, loans and investments, indebtedness, transactions with affiliates (including management fees and compensation), dividends, distributions and other restricted payments, change in fiscal year, fundamental changes, amendments to and subordinated indebtedness, restrictive agreements, sale and leaseback transactions and certain permitted acquisitions. Dividends, distributions, and other restricted payments are permitted in certain circumstances under the Credit Agreement, including, among other exceptions, (i) in an amount up to the cumulative available amount of excess free cash flow that is not required to be used to prepay the outstanding loans under the Credit Agreement, subject to certain adjustments, provided that there is not a continuing default, the Company maintains a Total Net Leverage Ratio on such date that is 0.25x less than the ratio required by the Credit Agreement at such date and the Company and its subsidiaries have not less than \$5.0 million in the aggregate of Unrestricted Cash (as defined in the Credit Agreement) plus remaining availability under the revolving commitments, (ii) in an amount that would not cause the Total Net Leverage Ratio to exceed 2.75 to 1.00, provided that there is not a continuing default and the Company and its subsidiaries have at least \$5.0 million in the aggregate of Unrestricted Cash plus remaining availability under the revolving commitments, (iii) to make payments under the Certificate of Designations of the Company's outstanding preferred stock in an amount up to the cumulative available amount of excess free cash flow that is not required to be used to prepay the outstanding loans under the Credit Agreement, subject to certain adjustments, provided that there is not a continuing default, the Company maintains a Total Net Leverage Ratio that does not exceed 3.25 to 1.00 and the Company and its subsidiaries have at least \$5.0 million in the aggregate of Unrestricted Cash plus remaining availability under the revolving commitments, and (iv) in an amount not to exceed \$15.0 million provided that there is not a continuing default.

The Company must also maintain a Total Net Leverage Ratio, defined as the ratio of (a) consolidated net debt to (b) consolidated EBITDA (which includes certain add-backs that are not reflected in the definition of Adjusted EBITDA appearing elsewhere in this Report, such as losses or gains on asset dispositions and non-cash losses or gains on swap agreements) at the end of each fiscal quarter for the consecutive four fiscal quarter period most recently then ending. The Total Net Leverage Ratio requirements are as follows:

Period	Maximum Total Net Leverage Ratio
Closing Date through the third fiscal quarter of the 2017 fiscal year	4.00:1.00
Fourth fiscal quarter of the 2017 fiscal year through the first fiscal quarter of the 2019 fiscal year	3.75:1.00
Second fiscal quarter of the 2019 fiscal year and thereafter	3.50:1.00

At September 30, 2017, the Borrower and the guarantors were in compliance with all covenants in the Credit Agreement.

Short-Term and Long-Term Liquidity Requirements

Our ability to make principal and interest payments on borrowings under the Credit Facilities and our ability to fund planned capital expenditures will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future, which, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, regulatory and other conditions. Based on the current level of operations, we believe that our existing cash balances and expected cash flows from operations will be sufficient to meet operating requirements for at least the next 12 months.

Seasonality

Our business is highly seasonal. Most school districts seek to buy their new school buses so that they will be available for use on the first day of the school year, typically in mid-August to early September. As a result, our two busiest quarters are our third and fourth fiscal quarters, the latter ending on the Saturday closest to September 30. Our quarterly results of operations, cash flows, and liquidity are likely to be impacted by these seasonal patterns. For example, our revenues are typically highest in our third and fourth fiscal quarters. There are, however, variations in the seasonal demands from year to year depending, in part, on large direct sales to major fleet customers for which short-term trade credit is generally offered. Working capital, on the other hand, is typically a significant use of cash during the first fiscal quarter and a significant source of cash generation in the fourth fiscal quarter. We typically conduct planned shutdowns during our first fiscal quarter.

Cash Flows

The following table sets forth general information derived from our statement of cash flows for the fiscal years presented:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016	2015
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$ 52,309	\$ 52,861	\$ 61,137
Total cash provided by operating activities	47,641	25,105	23,366
Total cash used in investing activities	(9,204)	(9,583)	(5,190)
Total cash used in financing activities	(28,130)	(16,074)	(26,452)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	10,307	(552)	(8,276)
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 62,616	\$ 52,309	\$ 52,861
Depreciation and amortization expense	8,180	8,046	8,790
Cash paid for fixed assets and acquired intangible assets	\$ 9,252	\$ 9,583	\$ 5,190

Total cash provided by operating activities

Cash flows provided by operating activities totaled \$47.6 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, as compared with \$25.1 million of cash flows provided by operating activities for the fiscal year ended 2016. The \$22.5 million increase was primarily attributed to a \$21.9 million increase in net income that was partially offset by \$12.3 million more of total non-cash components in net income, improved working capital levels of \$8.2 million, and an increase of \$2.3 million in dividends received from our Micro Bird joint venture.

Cash flows provided by operating activities totaled \$25.1 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, as compared with \$23.4 million of cash flows provided by operating activities for the fiscal year ended 2015. The \$1.7 million increase was primarily attributed to a \$2.3 million dividend received from our Micro Bird joint venture.

Total cash used in investing activities

Cash flows used in investing activities totaled \$9.2 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, as compared with \$9.6 million of cash flows used in investing activities for the fiscal year ended 2016. The \$0.4 million decrease in cash used is mainly attributed to cash paid for fixed assets.

Cash flows used in investing activities totaled \$9.6 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, as compared with \$5.2 million of cash flows used in investing activities for the fiscal year ended 2015. The \$4.4 million increase in cash used was cash paid for fixed and acquired intangible assets primarily related to IT infrastructure improvements.

Total cash used in financing activities

Cash used in financing activities totaled \$28.1 million for the fiscal year ended 2017, as compared with \$16.1 million in cash used in financing activities for the fiscal year ended 2016. The \$12.1 million increase in cash used was mainly attributed to \$34.3 million in cash spent on share repurchases under the share repurchase program and a \$17.0 million decrease in contributions from our former majority stockholder. The increase in cash used was partially offset by a decrease of \$30.8 million in cash paid for principal payments on debt and an increase of \$11.2 million in cash received for warrant exercises.

Cash used in financing activities totaled \$16.1 million for the fiscal year ended 2016, as compared with \$26.5 million in cash used in financing activities for the fiscal year ended 2015. The \$10.4 million decrease in cash used was primarily attributed to \$11.8 million in cash received from exercises of warrants.

Free cash flow

Management believes the non-GAAP measurement of free cash flow, defined as net cash provided by continuing operations less cash paid for fixed assets, fairly represents the Company's ability to generate surplus cash that could fund activities not in the ordinary course of business. See "Key Measures We Use to Evaluate Our Performance". The following table sets forth the calculation of free cash flow for the fiscal years presented:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016	2015
Net cash provided by continuing operations	\$ 47,875	\$ 25,297	\$ 23,495
Cash paid for fixed assets and acquired intangible assets	(9,252)	(9,583)	(5,190)
Free cash flow	\$ 38,623	\$ 15,714	\$ 18,305

Free cash flow for the fiscal year ended 2017 was \$22.9 million higher than free cash flow for the fiscal year ended 2016, which was primarily driven by an increase in net income of \$21.9 million.

Free cash flow for the fiscal year ended 2016 was \$2.6 million lower than free cash flow for the fiscal year ended 2015, primarily due to an increase of \$4.4 million in cash paid for fixed and acquired intangible assets.

Commitments and Contractual Obligations

In addition to our debt obligations, in the normal course of business, we enter into various contractual obligations that impact, or could impact, our liquidity. Refer to Note 11, *Guarantees, Commitments and Contingencies*, to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for further information on our commitments and contractual obligations, including leases.

Off-Balance Sheet arrangements

We lease an office building and fork lifts for use in our operations on an operating lease basis.

We had outstanding letters of credit totaling \$7.7 million at September 30, 2017, the majority of which secure our self-insured workers compensation program, the collateral for which is regulated by the State of Georgia.

At September 30, 2017, there were 2.5 million shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding warrants.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Blue Bird evaluates its estimates on an ongoing basis, based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Application of these accounting policies involves the exercise of judgment and use of assumptions as to future uncertainties and, as a result, actual results could differ from these estimates.

Use of Estimates and Assumptions

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions. At the date of the financial statements, these estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities, and during the reporting period, these estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses. For example, significant management judgments are required in determining excess, obsolete, or unsalable inventory, allowance for doubtful accounts, potential impairment of long-lived assets, goodwill and intangibles, the accounting for self-insurance reserves, warranty reserves, pension obligations, income taxes, environmental liabilities and contingencies. Future events and their effects cannot be predicted with certainty, and, accordingly, the Company's accounting estimates require the exercise of judgment. The accounting estimates used in the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements may change as new events occur, as more experience is acquired, as additional information is obtained and as the Company's operating environment changes. The Company evaluates and updates its assumptions and estimates on an ongoing basis and may employ outside experts to assist in the Company's evaluations. Actual results could differ from the estimates that the Company has used.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, ownership has transferred to the customer, the selling price is fixed or determinable, and collectability is reasonably assured. Generally, the Company recognizes revenue, net of sales concessions, when the product is delivered or when the product has been completed, is ready for delivery, has been paid for, its title has transferred and is awaiting pickup by the customer, which generally occurs within 30 days of completion. Provisions for discounts are recorded in the same period as the related revenues.

The Company sells extended warranties related to its products. Revenue related to these contracts is recognized on a straight-line basis over the contract period and costs thereunder are expensed as incurred.

The Company classifies shipping and handling revenues and costs billed to a customer as net sales on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and the related costs incurred by the Company are included in cost of goods sold on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Inbound shipping and handling costs and outbound shipping costs which are paid for by the Company and not charged to a customer are recorded in cost of goods sold on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Self-Insurance

The Company is self-insured for the majority of its workers' compensation and medical claims. The expected ultimate cost for claims incurred as of the balance sheet date is not discounted and is recognized as a liability. Self-insurance losses for claims filed and claims incurred but not reported are accrued based upon estimates of the aggregate liability for uninsured claims using loss development factors and actuarial assumptions followed in the insurance industry and historical loss development experience. At September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, reserves totaled approximately \$5.4 million and \$6.5 million, respectively.

Inventories

The Company values inventories at the lower of cost or market value. The Company uses a standard costing methodology, which approximates cost on a first-in, first-out ("FIFO") basis. The Company reviews the standard costs of raw materials, work-in-process and finished goods inventory on a periodic basis to ensure that its inventories approximate current actual costs. Manufacturing cost includes raw materials, direct labor and manufacturing overhead. The Company establishes a new cost basis for obsolete inventory based on historical usage and assumptions about future demand.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price of acquired businesses over the fair value of the assets acquired less liabilities assumed in connection with such acquisition. In accordance with the provisions of ASC 350, Intangibles—Goodwill and Other ("ASC 350"), goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives acquired in an acquisition are not amortized, but instead are tested for impairment at least annually or more frequently should an event occur or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired. Such events or circumstances may be a significant change in business climate, economic and industry trends, legal factors, negative operating performance indicators, significant competition, changes in strategy or disposition of a reporting unit or a portion thereof. Although management believes the assumptions used in the determination of the value of the enterprise are reasonable, no assurance can be given that these assumptions will be achieved. As a result, impairment charges may occur when goodwill is tested for impairment in the future.

We have two reporting units for which we test goodwill for impairment: Bus and Parts. In the evaluation of goodwill for impairment, we have the option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether further impairment testing is necessary or to perform a quantitative assessment by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit to its carrying amount, including goodwill. Under the qualitative assessment, an entity is not required to calculate the fair value of a reporting unit unless the entity determines that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than its carrying amount. If under the quantitative assessment the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, then the amount of the impairment loss, if any, must be measured under step two of the impairment analysis. In step two of the analysis, we would record an impairment loss equal to the excess of the carrying value of the reporting unit's goodwill over its implied fair value should such a circumstance arise.

Fair value of the reporting units is estimated primarily using the income approach, which incorporates the use of discounted cash flow (DCF) analysis. A number of significant assumptions and estimates are involved in the application of the DCF model to forecast operating cash flows, including markets and market shares, sales volumes and prices, costs to produce, tax rates, capital spending, discount rate and working capital changes. The cash flow forecasts are based on approved strategic operating plans.

During the fourth quarter of each fiscal year presented, we performed our annual impairment assessment of goodwill which did not indicate that an impairment existed.

In the evaluation of indefinite lived assets for impairment, we have the option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether further impairment testing is necessary, or to perform a quantitative assessment by comparing the fair value of an asset to its carrying amount. The Company's intangible asset with an indefinite useful life is the Blue Bird trade-name. Under the qualitative assessment, an entity is not required to calculate the fair value of the asset unless the entity determines that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than its carrying amount. If a qualitative assessment is not performed or if a quantitative assessment is otherwise required, then the entity compares the fair value of an asset to its carrying amount and the amount of the impairment loss, if any, is the difference between fair value and carrying value. The fair value of our trade name is derived by using the relief from royalty method, which discounts the estimated cash savings we realized by owning the name instead of otherwise having to license or lease it.

During the fourth quarter of each fiscal year presented, we performed our annual impairment assessment of our trade name which did not indicate that an impairment existed.

Our intangible assets with definite useful lives include customer relationships and engineering designs, which are amortized over their estimated useful lives of 20 and 7 years, respectively, using the straight-line method. These assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. No impairments have been recorded.

Pensions

We have pension benefit costs and obligations, which are developed from actuarial valuations. Actuarial assumptions attempt to anticipate future events and are used in calculating the expense and liability relating to our plan. These factors include assumptions we make about interest rates and expected investment return on plan assets. In addition, our actuarial consultants also use subjective factors such as mortality rates to develop our valuations. We review and update these assumptions on an annual basis at the beginning of each fiscal year. We are required to consider current market conditions, including changes in interest rates, in making these assumptions. Effective January 1, 2006, the benefit plan was frozen to all participants. No accrual of future benefits is earned or calculated beyond this date. Accordingly, our obligation estimate is based on benefits earned at that time discounted using an estimate of the single equivalent discount rate determined by matching the plan's future expected cash flows to spot rates from a yield curve comprised of high quality corporate bond rates of various durations. The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets reflects the average rate of earnings expected on the funds invested, or to be invested, to provide for the pension benefit obligation. In estimating that rate, appropriate consideration is given to the returns being earned by the plan assets in the fund and rates of return expected to be available for reinvestment and a building block method and we consider asset allocations, input from an external pension investment adviser, and risks and other factors adjusted for our specific investment strategy. The focus is on long-term trends and provides for the consideration of recent plan performance.

The actuarial assumptions that we use may differ materially from actual results due to changing market and economic conditions as well as longer or shorter life spans of participants. These differences may result in a significant impact to the measurement of our pension benefit obligations, and to the amount of pension benefits expense we may record. For example, as of September 30, 2017, a one-half percent increase in the discount rate would reduce the projected benefit obligation of our pension plans by approximately \$8.6 million, while a one-half percent decrease in the discount rate would increase the projected benefit obligation of our pension plans by approximately \$9.4 million.

Product Warranty Costs

The Company's products are generally warranted against defects in material and workmanship for a period of one to five years. A provision for estimated warranty costs is recorded at the time a unit is sold. The methodology to determine warranty reserve calculates average expected warranty claims using warranty claims by body type, by month, over the life of the bus, which is then multiplied by remaining months under warranty, by warranty type. Management believes the methodology provides for accuracy in addressing reserve requirements. Management believes the warranty reserve is appropriate; however, actual claims incurred could differ from the original estimates, requiring future adjustments.

The Company also sells extended warranties related to its products. Revenue related to these contracts is recognized on a straight-line basis over the contract period, which approximates the manner in which earned, and costs thereunder are expensed as incurred. All warranty expenses are recorded in the cost of goods sold line in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The current methodology to determine short-term extended warranty income reserve is based on twelve months of the remaining warranty value for each effective extended warranty at the balance sheet date.

Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with ASC 740, Income Taxes (“ASC 740”), which requires an asset and liability approach to financial accounting and reporting for income taxes. Under this approach, deferred income taxes represent the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities. The Company evaluates its ability, based on the weight of evidence available, to realize future tax benefits from deferred tax assets and establishes a valuation allowance to reduce a deferred tax asset to a level which, more likely than not, will be realized in future years.

The Company recognizes uncertain tax positions based on a cumulative probability assessment if it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained upon examination by an appropriate tax authority with full knowledge of all information. Recognized income tax positions are measured at the largest amount that is greater than 50% likely of being realized. Amounts recorded for uncertain tax positions are periodically assessed, including the evaluation of new facts and circumstances, to ensure sustainability of the positions. The Company records interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

A discussion of recently issued accounting standards applicable to the Company is described in Note 2, *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Recently Issued Accounting Standards*, in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained elsewhere in this Report, and we incorporate such discussion by reference herein.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

The Company is exposed to market risk from changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates and commodity prices.

Interest Rate Risk

At September 30, 2017, the Company carried \$154.0 million of term loan debt with a rate of LIBOR plus 175 basis points. At September 30, 2017, a 100 basis point increase or decrease in Blue Bird’s effective interest rate under its Credit Facilities would result in additional expense, or reduced expense, of \$1.5 million per annum.

Commodity Risk

The Company and its suppliers incorporate raw and finished commodities such as steel, copper, aluminum, and other automotive type commodities into its products. We often bid on contracts weeks or months before school buses are delivered and enter into school bus sales contracts with fixed prices per bus. The sales contracts generally do not have an indexed price escalation formula to account for economic fluctuations between the contract date and the delivery date. As a result, we typically are unable to pass along increased costs due to economic fluctuations to our customers. We generally purchase steel one quarter in advance, but because we generally do not otherwise hedge steel or the other primary commodities we purchase (rubber, aluminum and copper), changes in prices of raw materials can significantly impact future operating margins.

Currency Risk

The Company transacts substantially all of its sales in United States Dollars. Our foreign customers have exposure to risks related to changes in foreign currency exchange rates on our sales in that region. Foreign currency exchange rates can have material adverse effects on our foreign customers’ ability to purchase our products. We may utilize derivative instruments to hedge changes in foreign currency exchange rates for certain transactions with our customers. For non-hedged transactions, we are not exposed to foreign currency risks.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To Board of Directors and Stockholders of Blue Bird Corporation:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Blue Bird Corporation and Subsidiaries (the "Company") as of September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016 and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' deficit, and cash flows for the years ended September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Blue Bird Corporation at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years ended September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The accompanying supplemental schedule in the index appearing under Item 15(a)(2) has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental schedule reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental schedule. In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). In our opinion, the supplemental schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

/s/ BDO USA, LLP
Atlanta, Georgia
December 8, 2017

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To Board of Directors and Stockholders of Blue Bird Corporation:

In our opinion, the consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' deficit and cash flows for the year ended October 3, 2015 present fairly, in all material respects, the results of operations and cash flows of Blue Bird Corporation and its subsidiaries for the year ended October 3, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedule for the year ended October 3, 2015 presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. These financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audit. We conducted our audit of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Atlanta, Georgia

December 15, 2015, except for the effects of the revision discussed in Note 14 (not presented herein) to the consolidated financial statements appearing under Item 8 of the Company's 2016 annual report on Form 10-K, as to which the date is December 15, 2016

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands except for share data)

	<u>September 30, 2017</u>	<u>October 1, 2016</u>
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 62,616	\$ 52,309
Accounts receivable, net	10,148	20,315
Inventories	76,155	53,806
Other current assets	11,528	6,104
Total current assets	<u>\$ 160,447</u>	<u>\$ 132,534</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	34,708	33,466
Goodwill	18,825	18,825
Intangible assets, net	57,481	59,491
Equity investment in affiliate	11,625	12,944
Deferred tax asset	11,755	19,080
Other assets	975	1,526
Total assets	<u>\$ 295,816</u>	<u>\$ 277,866</u>
Liabilities and Stockholders' Deficit		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 87,331	\$ 80,646
Warranty	8,573	7,972
Accrued expenses	18,229	20,455
Deferred warranty income	6,776	5,666
Other current liabilities	9,847	4,032
Current portion of senior term debt	8,000	11,750
Total current liabilities	<u>\$ 138,756</u>	<u>\$ 130,521</u>
Long-term liabilities		
Long-term debt	\$ 143,224	\$ 140,366
Warranty	12,337	11,472
Deferred warranty income	12,519	10,521
Other liabilities	15,064	15,592
Pension	32,426	56,368
Total long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 215,570</u>	<u>\$ 234,319</u>
Guarantees, commitments and contingencies (Note 11)		
Stockholders' deficit		
Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized, 400,000 issued with liquidation preference of \$40,000 at September 30, 2017 and 500,000 issued with liquidation preference of \$50,000 at October 1, 2016	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized, 23,739,344 and 22,518,058 issued and outstanding at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively.	2	2
Additional paid-in capital	45,418	50,771
Accumulated deficit	(100,055)	(128,856)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(43,875)	(58,891)
Total stockholders' deficit	<u>\$ (58,510)</u>	<u>\$ (86,974)</u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' deficit	<u>\$ 295,816</u>	<u>\$ 277,866</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

<i>(in thousands except for share data)</i>	Fiscal Years Ended		
	2017	2016	2015
Net sales	\$ 990,602	\$ 932,010	\$ 919,128
Cost of goods sold	863,234	802,654	798,733
Gross profit	\$ 127,368	\$ 129,356	\$ 120,395
Operating expenses			
Selling, general and administrative expenses	72,831	102,711	84,561
Operating profit	\$ 54,537	\$ 26,645	\$ 35,834
Interest expense	(7,251)	(16,412)	(19,078)
Interest income	140	133	113
Other income (expense), net	1	(26)	—
Loss on debt extinguishment	(10,142)	—	—
Income before income taxes	\$ 37,285	\$ 10,340	\$ 16,869
Income tax expense	(11,832)	(5,989)	(4,442)
Equity in net income of non-consolidated affiliate	3,307	2,877	2,634
Net income from continuing operations	\$ 28,760	\$ 7,228	\$ 15,061
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax	41	(328)	(129)
Net income	\$ 28,801	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,932
Earnings per share:			
Net income (from above)	\$ 28,801	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,932
Less: preferred stock dividends	4,261	3,878	2,438
Less: preferred stock repurchase	6,091	—	—
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 18,449	\$ 3,022	\$ 12,494
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	23,343,772	21,252,616	21,182,885
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	24,877,729	21,315,619	25,497,602
Basic earnings per share, continuing operations	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.60
Basic earnings per share, discontinued operations	—	(0.02)	(0.01)
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.59
Diluted earnings per share, continuing operations	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.59
Diluted earnings per share, discontinued operations	—	(0.02)	—
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.59

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Fiscal Years Ended		
	2017	2016	2015
Net income	\$ 28,801	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,932
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax			
Net change in defined benefit pension plan	15,003	(7,104)	(5,206)
Net unrealized gain (loss) on cash flow hedges	13	(13)	—
Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	\$ 15,016	\$ (7,117)	\$ (5,206)
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 43,817	\$ (217)	\$ 9,726

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Fiscal Years Ended		
	2017	2016	2015
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income	\$ 28,801	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,932
(Income) loss from discontinued operations, net of tax	(41)	328	129
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by continuing operations:			
Depreciation and amortization	8,180	8,046	8,790
Amortization of debt costs	1,107	3,007	3,010
Share-based compensation	1,270	12,717	1,635
Equity in net income of affiliate	(3,307)	(2,877)	(2,634)
(Gain) loss on disposal of fixed assets	(33)	72	510
Deferred taxes	(1,202)	8,957	(8,626)
Provision for bad debt	—	(5)	34
Amortization of deferred actuarial pension losses	6,291	4,787	3,567
Loss on debt extinguishment	10,142	—	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	10,167	(6,564)	7,435
Inventories	(22,349)	(4,626)	22,120
Other assets	(5,469)	(2,457)	(137)
Accounts payable	8,404	(830)	(12,905)
Accrued expenses, pension and other liabilities	1,288	(4,474)	(14,365)
Dividend from equity investment in affiliate	4,626	2,316	—
Total adjustments	\$ 19,115	\$ 18,069	\$ 8,434
Net cash provided by continuing operations	\$ 47,875	\$ 25,297	\$ 23,495
Net cash used in discontinued operations	(234)	(192)	(129)
Total cash provided by operating activities	\$ 47,641	\$ 25,105	\$ 23,366
Cash flows from investing activities			
Cash paid for fixed assets and acquired intangible assets	\$ (9,252)	\$ (9,583)	\$ (5,190)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	48	—	—
Total cash used in investing activities	\$ (9,204)	\$ (9,583)	\$ (5,190)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayments under the former senior term loan	(161,500)	(36,750)	(36,750)
Borrowings under the new term loan	156,887	—	—
Repayments under the new term loan	(6,000)	—	—
Cash paid for capital leases	(155)	(221)	(142)
Cash paid for debt issuance costs	(299)	(1,117)	(3,110)
Cash paid to extinguish debt	(507)	—	—
Contributions from former majority stockholder	—	16,971	13,550
Payment of dividends on preferred stock	(4,261)	(2,881)	—
Cash paid for employee taxes on stock option exercises and vested restricted shares	(1,013)	(3,892)	—
Proceeds from exercises of warrants	23,045	11,816	—
Common stock, preferred stock, and warrant repurchases under the share repurchase program	(34,327)	—	—
Total cash used in financing activities	\$ (28,130)	\$ (16,074)	\$ (26,452)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	10,307	(552)	(8,276)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	52,309	52,861	61,137
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 62,616	\$ 52,309	\$ 52,861

	Fiscal Years Ended		
	2017	2016	2015
<i>(in thousands)</i>			
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information			
Cash paid during the period for:			
Interest paid, net of interest received	\$ 6,081	\$ 13,315	\$ 20,011
Income tax paid, net of tax refunds	8,420	159	7,145
Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities:			
Capital expenditures funded by capital lease borrowings	\$ —	\$ 100	\$ 563
Change in accounts payable and other assets for capital additions to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	(1,719)	2,081	671
Common stock dividend on Series A preferred stock (market value of common shares)	—	998	2,247
Cashless exercise of stock options	4,216	2,312	—
Non-Cash Reverse Merger Activity:			
Issuance of Common Stock	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 25,000
Issuance of Series A Preferred Stock	—	—	50,000
Shares assumed by legal acquirer	—	—	42,492
Repurchase of Common Stock from majority stockholder	—	—	100,000

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT

	Common Stock			Convertible Preferred Stock		Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Accumulated Deficit	Total Stockholders' Deficit
	Shares	Par Value	Additional Paid-In-Capital	Shares	Amount			
<i>(in thousands except for share data)</i>								
Balance, September 27, 2014	22,000,000	\$ 2	\$ —	—	\$ —	\$ (46,568)	\$ (102,229)	\$ (148,795)
Issuance of common stock	2,500,000	0.3	25,000	—	—	—	—	25,000
Issuance of Series A preferred stock	—	—	—	500,000	50,000	—	—	50,000
Shares assumed by legal acquirer	4,980,294	0.5	42,492	—	—	—	—	42,493
Shares purchased from former majority stockholder	(10,000,000)	(1)	(67,492)	—	—	—	(32,508)	(100,001)
Settlement of legal acquirer transaction costs	—	—	—	—	—	—	(14,825)	(14,825)
Contribution from former majority stockholder	—	—	13,550	—	—	—	—	13,550
Warrant exchange	1,212,500	0.1	715	—	—	—	(715)	—
Series A preferred stock dividend	182,088	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Share-based compensation expense	—	—	1,622	—	—	—	—	1,622
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,932	14,932
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	—	—	(5,206)	—	(5,206)
Balance, October 3, 2015	20,874,882	\$ 2	\$ 15,887	500,000	\$ 50,000	\$ (51,774)	\$ (135,345)	\$ (121,230)
Business combination tax adjustment	—	—	—	—	—	—	(411)	(411)
Exercise of stock warrants	1,027,493	—	11,816	—	—	—	—	11,816
Restricted stock activity	455,465	—	(3,511)	—	—	—	—	(3,511)
Exercise of stock options, cashless	40,611	—	(381)	—	—	—	—	(381)
Employee stock purchase plan activity	23,673	—	247	—	—	—	—	247
Series A preferred stock dividends	95,934	—	(2,881)	—	—	—	—	(2,881)
Contribution from former majority stockholder	—	—	16,971	—	—	—	—	16,971
Share-based compensation expense	—	—	12,623	—	—	—	—	12,623
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,900	6,900
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	—	—	(7,117)	—	(7,117)
Balance, October 1, 2016	22,518,058	\$ 2	\$ 50,771	500,000	\$ 50,000	\$ (58,891)	\$ (128,856)	\$ (86,974)

	Common Stock			Convertible Preferred Stock		Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Accumulated Deficit	Total Stockholders' Deficit
	Shares	Par Value	Additional Paid-In-Capital	Shares	Amount			
<i>(in thousands except for share data)</i>								
Exercise of stock warrants	2,003,914	—	23,045	—	—	—	—	23,045
Exercise of stock options, cashless	82,124	—	(1,013)	—	—	—	—	(1,013)
Series A preferred stock dividends	—	—	(4,261)	—	—	—	—	(4,261)
Share repurchase program	(864,752)	—	(24,282)	(100,000)	(10,000)	—	—	(34,282)
Share-based compensation expense	—	—	1,158	—	—	—	—	1,158
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	—	28,801	28,801
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	—	—	—	—	—	15,016	—	15,016
Balance, September 30, 2017	23,739,344	\$ 2	\$ 45,418	400,000	\$ 40,000	\$ (43,875)	\$ (100,055)	\$ (58,510)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Nature of Business and Basis of Presentation

Nature of Business

On February 24, 2015, Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp. ("HCAC"), a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC), consummated its business combination (the "Business Combination"), pursuant to which HCAC acquired all of the outstanding capital stock of School Bus Holdings, Inc. ("SBH") from The Traxis Group B.V. (the "Seller"). SBH operates its business of designing and manufacturing school buses through subsidiaries and under the Blue Bird Corporation ("Blue Bird") name. In the Business Combination, the total purchase price was paid in a combination of cash (\$100.0 million) and in shares of HCAC's Common Stock (12,000,000 shares valued at a total of \$120.0 million). In connection with the closing of the Business Combination, we changed our name from Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp. to Blue Bird Corporation.

Upon consummation of the Business Combination, SBH became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Bird Corporation and SBH's direct and indirect subsidiaries became indirect subsidiaries of our parent corporation. We listed our Common Stock and Public Warrants on NASDAQ under the symbols "BLBD" and "BLBDW," respectively, effective February 25, 2015. Our warrants began trading on the OTCQB on June 2, 2015 as the warrants do not currently meet the round lot requirement of NASDAQ.

Blue Bird Body Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Bird, was incorporated in 1958 and has manufactured, assembled and sold school buses to a variety of municipal, federal and commercial customers since 1927. The majority of Blue Bird's sales are made to an independent distributor network, which in turn sells buses to ultimate end users. We are headquartered in Fort Valley, Georgia. References in these notes to financial statements to "Blue Bird", the "Company," "we," "our," or "us" refer to Blue Bird Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All significant inter-company transactions and accounts have been eliminated in consolidation.

The Company's fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to September 30 with its quarters consisting of thirteen weeks in most years. In fiscal years 2017 and 2016, there were a total of 52 weeks. In fiscal year 2015, there was a total of 53 weeks.

The Business Combination was accounted for as a reverse acquisition since immediately following completion of the transaction the sole stockholder of SBH immediately prior to the Business Combination maintained effective control of Blue Bird Corporation, the post-combination company. For accounting purposes, SBH is deemed the accounting acquirer in the transaction and, consequently, the transaction is treated as a recapitalization of SBH (i.e., a capital transaction involving the issuance of stock and payment of cash by HCAC for the stock of SBH). Accordingly, the consolidated assets, liabilities and results of operations of SBH are the historical financial statements of Blue Bird Corporation, and HCAC assets, liabilities and results of operations are consolidated with SBH beginning on the acquisition date. No step-up in basis of intangible assets or goodwill was recorded in this transaction. We have effected this treatment through opening stockholders' deficit by adjusting the number of our common shares outstanding. Other than transaction costs paid and a contribution from our majority stockholder for payment of management incentive compensation related to the transaction, the transaction was primarily non-cash and involved exchanges of consideration and equity between our majority stockholder and HCAC and its related entities.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Recently Issued Accounting Standards

Discontinued Operations

In 2007 Blue Bird sold its entire coach business to an unrelated third party. Results of operations for this disposed business have been classified as discontinued operations since 2007. Net income (loss), net of tax, associated with these discontinued operations were \$0.0 million, \$(0.3) million, and \$(0.1) million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

Use of Estimates and Assumptions

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”) requires management to make estimates and assumptions. At the date of the financial statements, these estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities, and during the reporting period, these estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses. For example, significant management judgments are required in determining excess, obsolete, or unsalable inventory, allowance for doubtful accounts, potential impairment of long-lived assets, goodwill and intangibles, the accounting for self-insurance reserves, warranty reserves, pension obligations, income taxes, environmental liabilities and contingencies. Future events and their effects cannot be predicted with certainty, and, accordingly, the Company’s accounting estimates require the exercise of judgment. The accounting estimates used in the preparation of the Company’s consolidated financial statements may change as new events occur, as more experience is acquired, as additional information is obtained and as the Company’s operating environment changes. The Company evaluates and updates its assumptions and estimates on an ongoing basis and may employ outside experts to assist in the Company’s evaluations. Actual results could differ from the estimates that the Company has used.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Accounts receivable consist of amounts owed to the Company by customers. The Company monitors collections and payments from customers, and generally does not require collateral. Accounts receivable are generally due within 30 to 90 days. The Company provides for the possible inability to collect accounts receivable by recording an allowance for doubtful accounts. The Company reserves for an account when it is considered potentially uncollectible. The Company estimates its allowance for doubtful accounts based on historical experience, aging of accounts receivable and information regarding the creditworthiness of its customers. To date, losses have been within the range of management’s expectations. The Company writes off accounts receivable if it determines that the account is uncollectible.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, ownership has transferred to the customer, the selling price is fixed or determinable, and collectability is reasonably assured. Generally, the Company recognizes revenue, net of sales concessions, when the product is delivered or when the product has been completed, is ready for delivery, has been paid for, its title has transferred and is awaiting pickup by the customer, which generally occurs within 30 days of completion. Provisions for discounts are recorded in the same period as the related revenues.

The Company sells extended warranties related to its products. Revenue related to these contracts is recognized on a straight-line basis over the contract period and costs thereunder are expensed as incurred.

The Company classifies shipping and handling revenues and costs billed to a customer as net sales on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and the related costs incurred by the Company are included in cost of goods sold on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

See Note 3, *Supplemental Financial Information*, for further information on warranties and shipping and handling costs.

Self-Insurance

The Company is self-insured for the majority of its workers’ compensation and medical claims. The expected ultimate cost for claims incurred as of the balance sheet date is not discounted and is recognized as a liability. Self-insurance losses for claims filed and claims incurred but not reported are accrued based upon estimates of the aggregate liability for uninsured claims, using loss development factors and actuarial assumptions followed in the insurance industry and historical loss development experience. See Note 3, *Supplemental Financial Information*, and Note 16, *Benefit Plans*, for further information.

Financial Instruments

The Company’s financial instruments consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables, accounts payable, revolving credit facilities and long-term debt. The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables and accounts payable approximate their fair values because of the short-term maturity and highly liquid nature of these instruments. The carrying value of the Company’s senior term loan approximates fair value due to the variable interest rate. See Note 9, *Debt*, for further discussion.

Inventories

The Company values inventories at the lower of cost or market value. The Company uses a standard costing methodology, which approximates cost on a first-in, first-out (“FIFO”) basis. The Company reviews the standard costs of raw materials, work-in-process and finished goods inventory on a periodic basis to ensure that its inventories approximate current actual costs. Manufacturing cost includes raw materials, direct labor and manufacturing overhead. The Company establishes a new cost basis for obsolete inventory based on historical usage and assumptions about future demand.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis using the following periods, which represent the estimated useful lives of the assets:

	Years
Buildings	15 - 33
Machinery and equipment	5 - 10
Office furniture, equipment and other	3 - 10
Computer equipment and software	3 - 7

Costs, including capitalized interest and certain design, construction and installation costs related to assets that are under construction and are in the process of being readied for their intended use, are recorded as construction in progress and are not depreciated until such time as the subject asset is placed in service. Repairs and maintenance that do not extend the useful life of the asset are expensed as incurred. Upon sale, retirement, or other disposition of these assets, the costs and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any gain or loss on the disposition is included in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company reviews its long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. If we are required to analyze recoverability based on a triggering event, undiscounted future cash flows over the estimated remaining life of the asset, or asset group, are projected. If these projected cash flows are less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent the fair value of the asset less any costs of disposition is less than the carrying amount of the asset. Judgments regarding the existence of impairment indicators are based on market and operational performance. Evaluating potential impairment also requires estimates of future operating results and cash flows. No impairment charge was recognized in any of the periods presented.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price of acquired businesses over the fair value of the assets acquired less liabilities assumed in connection with such acquisition. In accordance with the provisions of ASC 350, *Intangibles—Goodwill and Other*, goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives acquired in an acquisition are not amortized, but instead are tested for impairment at least annually or more frequently should an event occur or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired. Such events or circumstances may be a significant change in business climate, economic and industry trends, legal factors, negative operating performance indicators, significant competition, changes in strategy or disposition of a reporting unit or a portion thereof.

We have two reporting units for which we test goodwill for impairment: Bus and Aftermarket Parts (“Aftermarket Parts” or “Parts”). In the evaluation of goodwill for impairment, we have the option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether further impairment testing is necessary or to perform a quantitative assessment by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit to its carrying amount, including goodwill. Under the qualitative assessment, an entity is not required to calculate the fair value of a reporting unit unless the entity determines that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than its carrying amount. If, under the quantitative assessment, the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, then the amount of the impairment loss, if any, must be measured under step two of the impairment analysis. In step two of the analysis, we would record an impairment loss equal to the excess of the carrying value of the reporting unit’s goodwill over its implied fair value, should such a circumstance arise.

Fair value of the reporting units is estimated primarily using the income approach, which incorporates the use of discounted cash flow (DCF) analysis. A number of significant assumptions and estimates are involved in the application of the DCF model to forecast operating cash flows, including markets and market shares, sales volumes and prices, costs to produce, tax rates, capital spending, discount rate and working capital changes. The cash flow forecasts are based on approved strategic operating plans and long-term forecasts.

In the evaluation of indefinite lived assets for impairment, we have the option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether further impairment testing is necessary, or to perform a quantitative assessment by comparing the fair value of an asset to its carrying amount. The Company's intangible asset with an indefinite useful life is the "Blue Bird" trade name. Under the qualitative assessment, an entity is not required to calculate the fair value of the asset unless the entity determines that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than its carrying amount. If a qualitative assessment is not performed or if a quantitative assessment is otherwise required, then the entity compares the fair value of an asset to its carrying amount and the amount of the impairment loss, if any, is the difference between fair value and carrying value. The fair value of our trade name is derived by using the relief from royalty method, which discounts the estimated cash savings we realized by owning the name instead of otherwise having to license or lease it.

Our intangible assets with a definite useful life are amortized over their estimated useful lives, 7 or 20 years, using the straight-line method. The useful lives of our intangible assets are reassessed annually and they are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable.

Debt Issue Costs

Amounts paid directly to lenders or as an original issue discount and amounts classified as issuance costs are recorded as a reduction in the carrying value of the debt, for which the Company had deferred financing costs totaling \$2.8 million and \$9.4 million at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively, incurred in connection with its debt facilities and related amendments. Commitment fees and other costs directly associated with obtaining revolving credit facilities are deferred financing costs which are recorded in other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets, for which the Company recorded \$0.0 million and \$0.7 million at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively.

All deferred financing costs are amortized to interest expense. The effective interest method is used for debt discounts related to the term loan; issue costs related to the revolver are amortized using the straight-line method. The Company's amortization of these costs was \$1.1 million, \$3.0 million and \$3.0 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively, and are reflected in the Consolidated Statements of Operations as a component of interest expense. See Note 9, *Debt*, for a discussion of the Company's indebtedness.

Derivative Instruments

In limited circumstances, we utilize derivative instruments to manage certain exposures to changes in foreign currency exchange rates. The fair values of all derivative instruments are recognized as assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date. Changes in the fair value of these derivative instruments are recognized in our operating results or included in other comprehensive income (loss), depending on whether the derivative instrument is a fair value or cash flow hedge and whether it qualifies for hedge accounting treatment.

If realized, gains and losses on derivative instruments are recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in the line item that reflects the underlying exposure that was hedged. The exchange of cash, if any, associated with derivative transactions is classified in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows in the same category as the cash flows from the items subject to the economic hedging relationships. See Note 18, *Foreign Exchange Contracts*, for further information.

Pensions

The Company accounts for its pension benefit obligations using actuarial models. The measurement of plan obligations and assets was made at September 30, 2017. Effective January 1, 2006, the benefit plan was frozen to all participants. No accrual of future benefits is earned or calculated beyond this date. Accordingly, our obligation estimate is based on benefits earned at that time discounted using an estimate of the single equivalent discount rate determined by matching the plan's future expected cash flows to spot rates from a yield curve comprised of high quality corporate bond rates of various durations. The Company recognizes the funded status of its pension plan obligations in its Consolidated Balance Sheet and records in other comprehensive income (loss) certain gains and losses that arise during the period, but are deferred under pension accounting rules.

Product Warranty Costs

The Company's products are generally warranted against defects in material and workmanship for a period of one to five years. A provision for estimated warranty costs is recorded in the year the unit is sold. The methodology to determine the warranty reserve calculates average expected warranty claims using warranty claims by body type, by month, over the life of the bus, which is then multiplied by remaining months under warranty, by warranty type. Management believes the methodology provides for accuracy in addressing reserve requirements. Management believes the warranty reserve is appropriate; however, actual claims incurred could differ from the original estimates, requiring future adjustments.

The Company also sells extended warranties related to its products. Revenue related to these contracts is recognized on a straight-line basis over the contract period, which approximates the manner in which earned, and costs thereunder are expensed as incurred. All warranty expenses are recorded in the cost of goods sold line on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The current methodology to determine short-term extended warranty income reserve is based on twelve months of the remaining warranty value for each effective extended warranty at the balance sheet date. See Note 3, *Supplemental Financial Information*, for further information.

Research and Development

Research and development costs are expensed as incurred and included in selling, general and administrative expenses in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. For the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Company expensed \$7.0 million, \$5.4 million and \$5.2 million, respectively, in the Consolidated Statements of Operations, related to research and development.

Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with ASC 740, *Income Taxes* (“ASC 740”), which requires an asset and liability approach to financial accounting and reporting for income taxes. Under this approach, deferred income taxes represent the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities. The Company evaluates its ability, based on the weight of evidence available, to realize future tax benefits from deferred tax assets and establishes a valuation allowance to reduce a deferred tax asset to a level which, more likely than not, will be realized in future years.

The Company recognizes uncertain tax positions based on a cumulative probability assessment if it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained upon examination by an appropriate tax authority with full knowledge of all information. Recognized income tax positions are measured at the largest amount that is greater than 50% likely of being realized. Amounts recorded for uncertain tax positions are periodically assessed, including the evaluation of new facts and circumstances, to ensure sustainability of the positions. The Company records interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense.

Environmental Liabilities

The Company records reserves for environmental liabilities on a discounted basis when environmental investigation and remediation obligations are probable and related costs are reasonably estimable. See Note 11, *Guarantees, Commitments and Contingencies*, for further information.

Segment Reporting

Operating segments are components of an entity that engage in business activities with discrete financial information available that is regularly reviewed by the chief operating decision maker (“CODM”) in order to assess performance and allocate resources. The Company’s CODM is the Company’s President and Chief Executive Officer. As discussed further in Note 12, *Segment Information*, the Company determined its operating and reportable segments to be Bus and Aftermarket Parts. The Bus segment includes the manufacturing and assembly of school buses to be sold to a variety of customers across the United States, Canada and in international markets. The Parts segment consists primarily of the purchase of parts from third parties to be sold to dealers within the Company’s network.

Recently Adopted Accounting Standards

ASU 2015-17 — In November 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-17, *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*, which simplifies the presentation of deferred taxes by requiring deferred tax assets and liabilities to be classified as non-current on the balance sheet. The standard is effective for public companies for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The guidance may be adopted prospectively or retrospectively and early adoption is permitted. The Company elected to early adopt this standard on a retrospective basis in the first quarter of fiscal 2017, and reclassified \$7.6 million of current deferred tax assets to long-term deferred tax assets, resulting in a total of \$19.1 million of long-term deferred tax assets at October 1, 2016, compared to the prior presentation of \$11.5 million. All future deferred tax assets and liabilities will be recorded as long-term.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

ASU 2017-04 — In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-04, *Intangibles—Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment*, which removes step two from the goodwill impairment test (comparison of implied fair value of goodwill with the carrying amount of that goodwill for a reporting unit). Instead, an entity should perform its goodwill impairment test by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount, including goodwill. The ASU will be effective for the Company in the first quarter of fiscal 2021. Any future impact of the adoption of this pronouncement will depend on an impairment, if any, of our goodwill.

ASU 2016-12 and 2016-10 — In May 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-12, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Narrow-Scope Improvements and Practical Expedients*, and in April 2016 issued ASU No. 2016-10, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Identifying Performance Obligations and Licensing*, both of which provide further clarification to be considered when implementing ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*. The ASUs are effective concurrently with ASU 2014-09, which is effective for the Company in fiscal 2019. We are finalizing our evaluation of the impact this guidance will have on our financial statements and related disclosures.

ASU 2016-02 — In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*, which requires lessees to recognize assets on the balance sheet for the rights and obligations created by all leases with terms greater than 12 months. The standard will also require certain qualitative and quantitative disclosures designed to give financial statement users information on the amount, timing, and uncertainty of cash flows arising from leases. ASU 2016-02 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2018, and early adoption is permitted. This standard will not be effective for us until fiscal 2020. We are currently evaluating the impact the standard will have on our consolidated financial statements, but do not expect the impact to be significant to the users of our financial statements.

3. Supplemental Financial Information

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consist of amounts owed to the Company by customers. The Company monitors collections and payments from customers, and generally does not require collateral. Accounts receivable are generally due within 30 to 90 days. The Company provides for the possible inability to collect accounts receivable by recording an allowance for doubtful accounts. The Company reserves for an account when it is considered potentially uncollectible. The Company estimates its allowance for doubtful accounts based on historical experience, aging of accounts receivable and information regarding the creditworthiness of its customers. To date, losses have been within the range of management's expectations. The Company writes off accounts receivable once it is determined that the account is uncollectible. Accounts receivable, net, consisted of the following at the dates indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Accounts receivable	\$ 10,248	\$ 20,415
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(100)	(100)
Accounts receivable, net	<u>\$ 10,148</u>	<u>\$ 20,315</u>

Product Warranties

The Company's products are generally warranted against defects in material and workmanship for a period of one to five years. A provision for estimated warranty costs is recorded in the year the unit is sold. The methodology to determine the warranty reserve calculates the average expected warranty claims using warranty claims by body type, by month, over the life of the bus, which is then multiplied by remaining months under warranty, by warranty type. Management believes the methodology provides for accuracy in addressing reserve requirements. Actual claims incurred could differ from calculated estimates, requiring future adjustments.

The following table reflects activity in accrued warranty cost (current and long-term portion combined) for the fiscal years presented:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2017	2016	2015
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 19,444	\$ 17,661	\$ 15,559
Add: current period accruals	11,075	10,452	10,425
Less: current period reductions of accrual	(9,609)	(8,669)	(8,323)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 20,910</u>	<u>\$ 19,444</u>	<u>\$ 17,661</u>

The Company also sells extended warranties related to its products. Revenue related to these contracts is recognized on a straight-line basis over the contract period, and costs thereunder are expensed as incurred. All warranty expenses are recorded in the cost of goods sold line in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The current methodology to determine short-term extended warranty income reserve is based on twelve months of the remaining warranty value for each effective extended warranty at the balance sheet date.

The following table reflects activity in deferred warranty income (current and long-term portions combined), for the sale of extended warranties of two to five years, for the fiscal years presented:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2017	2016	2015
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 16,187	\$ 14,145	\$ 12,003
Add: current period deferred income	9,146	7,186	6,556
Less: current period recognition of income	(6,038)	(5,144)	(4,414)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 19,295</u>	<u>\$ 16,187</u>	<u>\$ 14,145</u>

Self-Insurance

The following table reflects the total accrued self-insurance liability, comprised of workers' compensation and health insurance related claims, at the dates indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Current portion	\$ 3,194	\$ 3,679
Long-term portion	2,251	2,786
Total accrued self-insurance	<u>\$ 5,445</u>	<u>\$ 6,465</u>

The current and long-term portions of the accrued self-insurance liability are included in accrued expenses and other liabilities, respectively, on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Shipping and Handling

Shipping and handling revenues represent costs billed to customers and are presented as part of net sales on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Operations. Shipping and handling costs incurred are included in cost of goods sold. Shipping and handling revenues recognized were \$19.1 million, \$17.6 million and \$16.9 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The related cost of goods sold were \$17.0 million, \$15.4 million and \$14.4 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

4. Business Combination, Subsequent Change in Control and Stock Repurchase

Background and Summary

The Company was originally formed in September 2013 as a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC, under the name Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp. ("HCAC" or "Hennessy Capital") for the purpose of effecting a merger, capital stock exchange, asset acquisition, stock purchase, reorganization or similar business combination involving HCAC and one or more businesses. As a SPAC, HCAC was a shell (blank check) company that had no operations and whose purpose was to go public with the intention of merging with or acquiring a company with the proceeds of the SPAC's initial public offering (IPO). Until the consummation of the Business Combination, HCAC's securities were traded on The NASDAQ Stock Market ("NASDAQ") under the ticker symbols "HCAC," "HCACU" and "HCACW".

On September 21, 2014, Hennessy Capital Partners I LLC (the "HCAC Sponsor") signed a purchase agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") with The Traxis Group B.V. (the "Seller") to acquire all of the outstanding stock of SBH. The material terms and conditions of the Purchase Agreement were described in Hennessy Capital's definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on January 20, 2015, which was supplemented in additional proxy statement materials filed with the SEC on February 10, 2015.

On February 24, 2015, HCAC consummated its Business Combination, pursuant to which HCAC acquired all of the outstanding capital stock of SBH from the Seller. SBH operates its business of designing and manufacturing school buses through subsidiaries and under the "Blue Bird" name. In the Business Combination, the total purchase price was paid in a combination of cash (\$100 million) and in shares of HCAC's Common Stock (12,000,000 shares valued at a total of \$120 million). In connection with the closing of the Business Combination, we changed our name from Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp. to Blue Bird Corporation.

Preferred Stock Subscription Agreement

In connection with its execution of the Purchase Agreement, Hennessy Capital entered into a preferred stock subscription agreement with The Osterweis Strategic Income Fund and The Osterweis Strategic Investment Fund (collectively, the "PIPE Investment Investor").

In the preferred stock subscription agreement, the PIPE Investment Investor agreed to purchase from Hennessy Capital, concurrent with the consummation of the closing of the Business Combination, 400,000 shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock for gross proceeds of approximately \$40 million, subject to a possible increase to up to 500,000 shares or approximately \$50 million (the “PIPE Investment”).

On February 18, 2015, Hennessy Capital entered into a subscription agreement with four funds managed by Coliseum Capital Management, LLC (the “Common/Preferred Investor”) pursuant to which the Common/Preferred Investor agreed to purchase \$25 million worth of shares of Hennessy Capital common stock, through (i) open market or privately negotiated transactions with third parties, at a purchase price of up to \$10.00 per share, (ii) a private placement with consummation to occur concurrently with that of the Business Combination at a purchase price of \$10.00 per share or (iii) a combination thereof, and further agreed to purchase 100,000 shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock pursuant to a private placement for gross proceeds of approximately \$10.0 million to occur concurrently with that of the Business Combination (the “Subsequent PIPE Investment”).

Business Combination Approval and Consummation

On February 23, 2015, the Business Combination was approved by Hennessy Capital’s stockholders. On February 24, 2015, the parties consummated the Business Combination. The total purchase price was paid in a combination of cash (\$100 million) and in shares of the registrant’s common stock (12,000,000 shares valued at a total of \$120 million). In connection with the closing of the Business Combination, the Company redeemed a total of 7,494,700 shares of its common stock pursuant to the terms of the Company’s amended and restated certificate of incorporation, resulting in a total cash payment from Hennessy Capital’s trust account to redeeming stockholders of \$75 million.

On February 24, 2015, at the closing of the Business Combination, the PIPE Investment Investor purchased 400,000 shares of the Company’s Series A Convertible Preferred Stock from the Company for aggregate gross proceeds of approximately \$40 million and the Common/Preferred Investor purchased 100,000 shares of the Company’s Series A Convertible Preferred Stock from the Company for aggregate gross proceeds of approximately \$10 million. In addition, at the closing, the Common/Preferred Investor purchased 2,500,000 shares of the Company’s common stock from the Company for aggregate gross proceeds of \$25 million.

Registration Rights Agreement

On February 24, 2015, the Company entered into a registration rights agreement with the Seller and other investors including the PIPE Investment Investor and Common/Preferred Investor (the “Registration Rights Agreement”). The parties were granted registration rights that obligate the Company to register for resale, among other shares, all or any portion of the shares of the Company’s capital stock that were issued by the Company in connection with the Business Combination and the PIPE Investment and the Subsequent PIPE Investment (including the shares of common stock underlying the Series A Preferred Stock issued pursuant to the PIPE Investment and the Subsequent PIPE Investment).

On April 27, 2015, a registration statement on Form S-3 filed by the Company in connection with, among other things, its obligations under the Registration Rights Agreement, was declared effective by the SEC.

Under the Registration Rights Agreement, the parties also hold “piggyback” registration rights exercisable at any time that allow them to include the shares of Company common stock that they own in any public offering of equity securities initiated by us (other than those public offerings pursuant to registration statements on forms that do not permit registration for resale by them). The “piggyback” registration rights are subject to proportional cutbacks based on the manner of such offering and the identity of the party initiating such offering.

The Company will pay all expenses incidental to its performance under the Registration Rights Agreement, as well as the underwriting discounts and commissions payable by the parties to that agreement in connection with the sale of their shares under the Registration Rights Agreement.

Change in Control

Pursuant to, and subject to the terms of, a Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of May 26, 2016 (the “Purchase and Sale Agreement”), by and among The Traxis Group B.V. (“Traxis”), ASP BB Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“ASP”), and the Company, Traxis agreed to sell and ASP agreed to purchase all of the 12,000,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company owned by Traxis (the “Transaction Shares”). Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement, ASP acquired 7,000,000 Transaction Shares at an initial closing on June 3, 2016 for an amount in cash equal to \$10.10 per share, and 5,000,000 Transaction Shares at a second closing on June 8, 2016 for an amount in cash equal to \$11.00 per share, for an aggregate purchase price of \$125.7 million. Rights held by Traxis under the Registration Rights Agreement were transferred to ASP in conjunction with the Purchase and Sale Agreement. The Company was not a part of the transaction and there were no proceeds to the Company, resulting in no required accounting

treatment; however, the sale of Transaction Shares did trigger a phantom equity compensation payment as further discussed in Note 15, *Share-Based Compensation*. The payment was primarily funded by Traxis and not by the Company.

Repurchase of Common/Preferred Investor Stock

On September 23, 2017, the Company entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement with the Common/Preferred Investor, pursuant to which the Common/Preferred Investor agreed to sell and the Company agreed to purchase all of (i) the shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 (the “Common Stock”) of the Company, (ii) the shares of the Company’s 7.625% Series A Convertible Cumulative Preferred Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, and (iii) the warrants to acquire Common Stock, in each case, owned by the Common/Preferred Investor (the “Transaction Securities”). The Company purchased the Transaction Securities for an aggregate purchase price of \$32.1 million, reflecting a price per share of Common Stock of \$18.65.

5. Inventory

The Company values inventory at the lower of cost or market value. The Company uses a standard costing methodology, which approximates cost on a first-in, first-out basis. The Company reviews the standard costs of raw materials, work-in-process and finished goods inventory on a periodic basis to ensure that its inventory values approximate current actual costs. Manufacturing cost includes raw materials, direct labor and manufacturing overhead. The following table presents the components of inventory at the dates indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Raw materials	\$ 54,379	\$ 40,940
Work in process	14,660	10,011
Finished goods	7,116	2,855
Total inventory	<u>\$ 76,155</u>	<u>\$ 53,806</u>

6. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consisted of the following at the dates indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Land	\$ 1,187	\$ 1,187
Buildings	18,420	14,596
Machinery and equipment	63,988	60,839
Office furniture, equipment and other	1,389	1,389
Computer equipment and software	16,765	14,591
Construction in process	2,544	4,653
Property, plant and equipment, gross	<u>104,293</u>	<u>97,255</u>
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(69,585)	(63,789)
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>\$ 34,708</u>	<u>\$ 33,466</u>

Depreciation and amortization expense for property, plant and equipment was \$6.2 million, \$6.1 million, and \$6.9 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

7. Goodwill

The carrying amounts of goodwill by reporting unit are as follows at the dates indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	Gross Goodwill	Accumulated Impairments	Net Goodwill
September 30, 2017			
Bus	\$ 15,139	\$ —	\$ 15,139
Parts	3,686	—	3,686
Total	<u>\$ 18,825</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 18,825</u>
October 1, 2016			
Bus	\$ 15,139	\$ —	\$ 15,139
Parts	3,686	—	3,686
Total	<u>\$ 18,825</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 18,825</u>

During the fourth quarters of the fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016, we performed our annual impairment assessment of goodwill which did not indicate that an impairment existed; therefore, no impairments of goodwill have been recorded.

8. Other Intangible Assets

The gross carrying amounts and accumulated amortization of intangible assets are as follows at the dates indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	September 30, 2017			October 1, 2016		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Total	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Total
Finite lived: Engineering designs	\$ 982	\$ 141	\$ 841	\$ 982	\$ —	\$ 982
Finite lived: Customer relationships	37,425	20,601	16,824	37,425	18,732	18,693
Total amortized intangible assets	38,407	20,742	17,665	38,407	18,732	19,675
Indefinite lived: Trade name	39,816	—	39,816	39,816	—	39,816
Total intangible assets	<u>\$ 78,223</u>	<u>\$ 20,742</u>	<u>\$ 57,481</u>	<u>\$ 78,223</u>	<u>\$ 18,732</u>	<u>\$ 59,491</u>

Management considers the "Blue Bird" trade name to have an indefinite useful life and, accordingly, it is not subject to amortization. Management reached this conclusion principally due to the longevity of the Blue Bird name and because management considers renewal upon reaching the legal limit of the trademarks related to the trade name as perfunctory. The Company expects to maintain usage of the trade name on existing products and introduce new products in the future that will also display the trade name. During the fourth quarters of the fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016, we performed our annual impairment assessment of our trade name, which did not indicate that an impairment existed; therefore, no impairments of our indefinite lived intangibles have been recorded.

Customer relationships are amortized on a straight-line basis over an estimated life of 20 years. Engineering designs were acquired and placed in service near the end of fiscal 2017 and will be amortized on a straight-line basis over an estimated life of 7 years. Total amortization expense for intangible assets was \$2.0 million, \$1.9 million, and \$1.9 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

Amortization expense for finite lived intangible assets for the next five years is expected to be as follows:

Fiscal Years Ending	Amortization Expense
2018	\$ 2,009
2019	2,009
2020	2,009
2021	2,009
2022	2,009
Thereafter	7,620
Total amortization expense	<u>\$ 17,665</u>

9. Debt

On December 12, 2016, Blue Bird Body Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, executed a \$235.0 million five-year credit agreement with Bank of Montreal, which acts as the administrative agent and an issuing bank, Fifth Third Bank, as co-syndication agent and an issuing bank, and Regions Bank, as Co-Syndication Agent, together with other lenders (the "Credit Agreement").

The credit facility provided for under the Credit Agreement consists of a term loan facility in an aggregate initial principal amount of \$160.0 million (the "Term Loan Facility") and a revolving credit facility with aggregate commitments of \$75.0 million. The revolving credit facility includes a \$15.0 million letter of credit sub-facility and a \$5.0 million swingline sub-facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility," and together with the Term Loan Facility, each a "Credit Facility" and collectively, the "Credit Facilities"). The obligations under the Credit Agreement and the related loan documents (including without limitation, the borrowings under the Credit Facilities and obligations in respect of certain cash management and hedging obligations owing to the agents, the lenders or their affiliates), are, in each case, secured by a lien on and security interest in substantially all of the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries including the Borrower, with certain exclusions as set forth in a Collateral Agreement entered into on the Closing Date.

As a result of the Credit Agreement, we incurred \$3.3 million of debt discount and issuance costs, which have been recorded as contra-debt and will be amortized over the life of the Credit Agreement using the effective interest method. Proceeds from the Term Loan Facility were used to fully extinguish our previous credit agreement with Societe Generale. In connection with the extinguishment, we recorded a \$10.1 million loss, which was the difference in the reacquisition price of the extinguished debt and the net carrying value at extinguishment. The loss includes the write-off of unamortized deferred financing costs recorded as a reduction of the prior debt, unamortized issuance costs associated with the previous revolving credit facility recorded in other assets, as well as interest and legal fees incurred to extinguish the prior debt.

The interest rate on the Term Loan Facility is (i) from the Closing Date until April 1, 2017, an election of either base rate plus 1 point or LIBOR plus 2 points and (ii) commencing with the fiscal quarter ending on April 1, 2017 and thereafter, dependent on the Total Net Leverage Ratio (as defined below) of the Company, an election of either base rate or LIBOR pursuant to the table below:

Level	Total Net Leverage Ratio	ABR Loans	Eurodollar Loans
I	Less than 2.00x	0.75%	1.75%
II	Greater than or equal to 2.00x and less than 2.50x	1.00%	2.00%
III	Greater than or equal to 2.50x and less than 3.00x	1.25%	2.25%
IV	Greater than or equal to 3.00x	1.50%	2.50%

Debt consisted of the following at the dates indicated:

(in thousands of dollars)	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
2021 term loan, net of deferred financing costs of \$2,776	\$ 151,224	\$ —
2020 term loan, net of deferred financing costs of \$9,384	—	152,116
Less: Current portion of long-term debt	8,000	11,750
Long-term debt, net of current portion	\$ 143,224	\$ 140,366

Term loans are recognized on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at the unpaid principal balance, and are not subject to fair value measurement. Given the variable rates on the loans, the Company estimates that the unpaid principal balance approximates fair value. If measured at fair value in the financial statements, the term loans would be classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. At September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, \$154.0 million and \$161.5 million, respectively, were outstanding on the term loans.

At September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, the stated interest rates on the term loans were 2.8% and 6.5%, respectively. At September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, the weighted-average annual effective interest rates for the term loans were 4.5% and 8.3%, respectively, which included amortization of the deferred financing costs.

No borrowings were outstanding on the Revolving Credit Facility at September 30, 2017; however, since there were \$7.7 million of Letters of Credit outstanding on September 30, 2017, the Company would have been able to borrow \$67.3 million on the revolving line of credit.

Interest expense on all indebtedness for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015 was \$7.3 million, \$16.4 million and \$19.1 million, respectively.

The schedules of remaining principal maturities for the term loan for the next five fiscal years are as follows:

(in thousands of dollars)

Year	Principal Payments
2018	\$ 8,000
2019	8,000
2020	11,000
2021	15,000
2022	112,000
Total remaining principal payments	<u>\$ 154,000</u>

10. Income Taxes

The components of income tax expense were as follows for the fiscal years presented:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016	2015
Current tax provision:			
Federal	\$ 11,681	\$ (3,192)	\$ 12,757
State	1,353	224	311
Total current tax provision (benefit)	<u>\$ 13,034</u>	<u>\$ (2,968)</u>	<u>\$ 13,068</u>
Deferred tax provision:			
Federal	\$ (767)	\$ 9,052	\$ (6,903)
State	(435)	(95)	(1,723)
Total deferred tax (benefit) provision	<u>(1,202)</u>	<u>8,957</u>	<u>(8,626)</u>
Income tax expense	<u>\$ 11,832</u>	<u>\$ 5,989</u>	<u>\$ 4,442</u>

As a result of the Business Combination during the fiscal year ended 2015, a change in the ownership of the Company occurred which, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, will limit on an annual basis the Company's ability to utilize its U.S. Net Operating Losses ("NOLs") and U.S. tax credits. The Company's NOLs and credits will continue to be available to offset taxable income and tax liabilities (until such NOLs and credits are either used or expire), subject to the Section 382 annual limitation. If the annual limitation amount is not fully utilized in a particular tax year, then the unused portion from that particular tax year will be added to the annual limitation in subsequent years. During the fiscal year ended 2016, the Company had a Change in Control of its majority stockholder and does not expect any Section 382 limitations to impair the Company's ability to realize all tax attributes.

At September 30, 2017, the Company had approximately \$0.5 million of federal tax credit carryforwards that expire at various dates through 2036.

The effective tax rates for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015 were 31.7%, 57.9% and 26.3%, respectively. The effective tax rate for the fiscal year ended 2017 differed from the statutory federal income tax rate of 35%, reflecting the benefits of income tax credits, the domestic production activities deduction, and recording a tax windfall from share-based compensation awards exercised, which were offset by the application of tax credits claimed as offsets against our payroll tax liabilities, and interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions. The effective tax rate for the fiscal year ended 2016 differed from the statutory federal income tax rate of 35%, primarily as a result of discrete items increasing tax expense in the period, including a change in investor tax on our non-consolidated affiliate income, the application of tax credits claimed as offsets against our payroll tax liabilities, interest and penalties on uncertain tax positions, limitations of the deductibility of certain share-based compensation, a net tax shortfall associated with the vesting of share-based compensation awards pursuant to adoption of ASU 2016-09, which were partially offset by recording the impact of new tax legislation. The effective tax rate for the fiscal year ended 2015 differed from the statutory federal income tax rate of 35%, primarily as a result of a benefit from the change in investor tax on our non-consolidated affiliate, domestic production activities deduction, state tax items and other permanent items which were partially offset by interest and penalties on an uncertain tax position and transaction costs.

A reconciliation between the reported income tax expense for continuing operations and the amount computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate of 35% is as follows:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016	2015
Federal taxes at statutory rate	\$ 13,050	\$ 3,619	\$ 5,904
Increase (reduction) in income taxes resulting from:			
State taxes, net	307	(20)	(949)
Change in uncertain tax positions	651	821	833
Share-based compensation	(210)	1,001	—
Permanent items	(701)	(84)	(954)
Valuation allowance	90	27	(1)
Tax credits	(530)	(470)	(90)
Return to accrual true-ups	(646)	(78)	(386)
Investor tax on non-consolidated affiliate income	(271)	582	425
Tax rate adjustments	144	535	(1,854)
Transaction costs	—	—	1,364
Other	(52)	56	150
Income tax expense	<u>\$ 11,832</u>	<u>\$ 5,989</u>	<u>\$ 4,442</u>

During fiscal 2015, there were changes in assumptions about the Company's ability to utilize U.S. foreign tax credits. The resulting tax rate change was applied to the cumulative beginning of year deferred tax balance for the non-consolidated affiliate, and a \$1.7 million benefit was recorded to fiscal 2015 tax expense.

The total amount of gross unrecognized tax benefits at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016 were \$6.4 million and \$6.4 million, respectively, which would affect the Company's effective tax rate if realized. The Company's liability arising from uncertain tax positions is recorded in other non-current liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as income tax expense. The accrued interest and penalties were \$2.9 million and \$2.1 million at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively.

The Company is subject to taxation mostly in the United States and various state jurisdictions. At September 30, 2017, tax years prior to 2014 are generally no longer subject to examination by federal and most state tax authorities.

The following table sets forth the sources of and differences between the financial accounting and tax bases of the Company's assets and liabilities which give rise to the net deferred tax assets at the dates indicated:

(in thousands of dollars)

	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Deferred tax liabilities		
Property, plant and equipment	\$ (2,282)	\$ (2,438)
Other intangible assets	(18,030)	(17,275)
Investor tax on non-consolidated affiliate income	(2,230)	(2,453)
Other assets	(527)	(520)
Total deferred tax liabilities	<u>\$ (23,069)</u>	<u>\$ (22,686)</u>
Deferred tax assets		
NOL carryforward	\$ 550	\$ 632
Accrued expenses	9,575	9,310
Indirect effect of uncertain tax position	2,869	2,747
Compensation	14,095	21,545
Inventories	1,576	1,081
Unearned income	4,000	3,492
Tax credits	2,809	3,517
Total deferred tax assets	<u>\$ 35,474</u>	<u>\$ 42,324</u>
Less: valuation allowance	(650)	(558)
Deferred tax assets less valuation allowance	<u>\$ 34,824</u>	<u>\$ 41,766</u>
Net deferred tax assets	<u><u>\$ 11,755</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 19,080</u></u>

11. Guarantees, Commitments and Contingencies

Litigation

At September 30, 2017, the Company had a number of product liability and other cases pending. Management believes that, considering the Company's insurance coverage and its intention to vigorously defend its positions, the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial statements.

Environmental

The Company is subject to a variety of environmental regulations relating to the use, storage, discharge and disposal of hazardous materials used in its manufacturing processes. Failure by the Company to comply with present and future regulations could subject it to future liabilities. In addition, such regulations could require the Company to acquire costly equipment or to incur other significant expenses to comply with environmental regulations. The Company is currently not involved in any material environmental proceedings and therefore management believes that the resolution of environmental matters will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial statements.

Our environmental liability using a discount rate of 11%, included in current accrued expenses and other long-term liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets, was \$0.5 million and \$0.6 million at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively. The estimated aggregate undiscounted amount that will be incurred over the next 10 years is \$1.0 million. The estimated payments for each of the next five years are \$0.1 million per year and the aggregate amount thereafter is \$0.5 million. Future expenditures may exceed the amounts accrued and estimated.

Lease Commitments

The Company leases certain buildings, machinery and equipment under operating leases expiring at various dates. Total rent expense was \$1.3 million, \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

The following table sets forth future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases with original terms exceeding one year at September 30, 2017:

(in thousands of dollars)

Years Ended	Amount
2018	\$ 672
2019	375
2020	50
2021	11
2022	—
Thereafter	3
Total operating lease commitments	\$ 1,111

The Company leases from third party vendors various office and plant equipment, including computers, copy machines, and sweepers, which qualify for capital lease treatment under the provisions of ASC 840. On the Consolidated Balance Sheets, amounts due under capital lease obligations are included in other liabilities, current and long-term, with the related assets recorded in property, plant and equipment, net. Depreciation of assets recorded under capital lease obligations is included in cost of goods sold or selling, general and administrative expenses, depending upon use of leased property, on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. These leases have remaining lease terms ranging from 1.9 to 5.3 years.

Leased property under capital leases at the dates indicated is presented in the following table:

(in thousands of dollars)

	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Leased property under capital leases	\$ 1,071	\$ 1,071
Accumulated amortization	(715)	(554)
Leased property under capital leases, net	\$ 356	\$ 517

The following table summarizes the Company's future minimum lease payments under capital leases at September 30, 2017:

(in thousands of dollars)

Years Ended	Amount
2018	\$ 178
2019	176
2020	18
2021	18
2022	18
Thereafter	6
Total minimum lease payments	414
Amount of lease payments representing interest	(35)
Present value of future minimum capital lease payments	\$ 379
Current obligations under capital leases	\$ 158
Long-term obligations under capital leases	221

Purchase Commitments

The Company may enter into pricing agreements with major suppliers for the purchase of raw materials and parts such as steel, engines, axles and transmissions. At September 30, 2017, there were no commitments for future production material.

12. Segment Information

We manage our business in two operating segments, which are also our reportable segments. The Bus segment includes the manufacturing and assembly of buses to be sold to a variety of customers across the United States, Canada and in international markets. The Parts segment consists primarily of the purchase of parts from third parties to be sold to dealers within the Company's network. Financial information is reported on the basis that it is used internally by the chief operating decision maker (the "CODM") in evaluating segment performance and deciding how to allocate resources. The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company has been identified as the CODM. Management evaluates the segments based primarily upon revenues and gross profit. A measure of assets is not applicable, as segment assets are not regularly reviewed by the CODM for evaluating performance or allocating resources. The tables below present segment net sales and gross profit for the fiscal years presented:

Net sales

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2017	2016	2015
Bus	\$ 930,738	\$ 876,087	\$ 861,665
Parts	59,864	55,923	57,463
Segment net sales	\$ 990,602	\$ 932,010	\$ 919,128

Gross profit

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2017	2016	2015
Bus	\$ 106,462	\$ 108,232	\$ 99,341
Parts	20,906	21,124	21,054
Segment gross profit	\$ 127,368	\$ 129,356	\$ 120,395

The following table is a reconciliation of segment gross profit to consolidated income before income taxes for the fiscal years presented:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2017	2016	2015
Segment gross profit	\$ 127,368	\$ 129,356	\$ 120,395
Adjustments:			
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(72,831)	(102,711)	(84,561)
Interest expense	(7,251)	(16,412)	(19,078)
Interest income	140	133	113
Other income (expense), net	1	(26)	—
Loss on debt extinguishment	(10,142)	—	—
Income before income taxes	\$ 37,285	\$ 10,340	\$ 16,869

Sales are attributable to geographic areas based on customer location and were as follows for the fiscal years presented:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2017	2016	2015
United States	\$ 878,631	\$ 838,418	\$ 861,258
Canada	104,016	83,669	49,847
Rest of world	7,955	9,923	8,023
Total net sales	\$ 990,602	\$ 932,010	\$ 919,128

13. Stockholders' Deficit

Stock

Authorized Stock

Our Certificate of Incorporation authorizes the issuance of 110,000,000 shares, consisting of 100,000,000 shares of common stock at \$0.0001 par value per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock at \$0.0001 par value per share, 2,000,000 of which have been designated as Series A Convertible Preferred Stock ("Preferred Stock" or "Convertible Preferred Stock") and the remaining 8,000,000 of which are undesignated. The outstanding shares of our Series A Convertible Preferred Stock and common stock are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

Common Stock

On February 24, 2015, we sold 2,500,000 shares of common stock at \$10.00 per share in a private placement. Proceeds from the sale were part of the consideration received by our majority owner as part of a recapitalization and reverse acquisition completed in the Business Combination. We also issued (i) 12,000,000 shares of common stock to the Seller upon consummation of the Business Combination, and (ii) 102,750 shares of common stock as a utilization fee to another investor. Please see Note 4, *Business Combination, Subsequent Change in Control and Stock Repurchase*, for a further discussion of these transactions.

Convertible Preferred Stock

By the filing of a Certificate of Designations (the "Certificate of Designations") on February 24, 2015, we have designated 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock as Series A Convertible Preferred Stock and, on February 24, 2015, we issued 500,000 shares of such series. Proceeds from the sale were part of the consideration received by our majority owner as part of a recapitalization and reverse acquisition completed in the Business Combination. Please see Note 4, *Business Combination, Subsequent Change in Control and Stock Repurchase*, for a further discussion of the transactions, including the repurchase of 100,000 shares of Preferred Stock by the Company during fiscal 2017.

Each share of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock is convertible, at the holder's option at any time, initially into 8.6 shares of our common stock (which is equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$11.59 per share), subject to specified adjustments as set forth in the Certificate of Designations. A Fundamental Change, as defined in the Certificate of Designations, was triggered on June 8, 2016 in connection with the second closing of the sale of the Transaction Shares, which allowed the preferred holders to convert on an adjusted basis for a designated conversion period. None of the Preferred shareholders elected to convert within the designated conversion period. In addition, beginning on or after the third anniversary of the initial issuance date, we have the right, at our option, to cause all outstanding shares of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock to be automatically converted into shares of common stock under certain circumstances and, if our Company undergoes certain fundamental changes, the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock will automatically be converted into common stock on the effective date of such fundamental change.

Holders of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock are entitled to receive when, as and if declared by the Board, dividends which are payable at a rate of 7.625% per annum. Unless prohibited by applicable law, the Board shall not fail to declare such dividends on the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock. Dividends accrue for all fiscal periods the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock is outstanding. The dividends are payable in cash, common shares, preferred shares, or any combination thereof. The form of dividend payment is at the sole discretion of the Company. In 2017, we paid three cash dividends totaling \$4.3 million. As we are in an accumulated deficit position, we reduce additional paid-in capital for the dividend payments made in shares of common stock at the same amount we record additional paid-in-capital for the issuance of the common stock, which results in no net change to our Stockholders' Deficit. The fair value of all dividends are reflected as a deductions from net income to calculate net income available to common stockholders in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

In the event of any liquidation, winding-up or dissolution of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary, each holder of shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock shall be entitled to receive and to be paid out of the assets of the Company available for distribution to its stockholders the Liquidation Preference (\$100.00 per share) plus all accumulated and unpaid dividends in respect of the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock (whether or not declared) to the date fixed for liquidation, winding-up or dissolution in preference to the holders of, and before any payment or distribution is made on, any other class of stock.

Warrants

At September 30, 2017, there were a total of 4,925,186 warrants outstanding to purchase 2,462,593 shares of our Common Stock.

Public Warrants

The Company has issued warrants to purchase its common stock which were originally issued as part of units in Hennessy Capital's initial public offering (the "Public Warrants"). Each Public Warrant entitles the registered holder to purchase one-half of one share of our common stock at a price of \$5.75 per one-half of one share (\$11.50 per whole share), subject to adjustment. Public Warrants may be exercised only for a whole number of shares of our common stock. No fractional shares will be issued upon exercise of the Public Warrants. The Public Warrants will expire on February 24, 2020, five years after the completion of the Business Combination, or earlier upon redemption or liquidation. We may call the Public Warrants for redemption if, and only if, the reported last sale price of our common stock equals or exceeds \$24.00 per share for any 20 trading days within a 30-trading day period ending on the third trading day prior to the date we send the notice of redemption to the warrant holders. The Public Warrants are listed on the OTCQB market under the symbol "BLBDW."

Placement Warrants

The Company has issued warrants to purchase its common stock issued in connection with a private placement which occurred concurrently with Hennessy Capital's initial public offering (the "Placement Warrants"). The Placement Warrants are identical to the Public Warrants sold in the initial public offering, except that, if held by the HCAC Sponsor or its permitted assignees, they (a) may be exercised for cash or on a cashless basis; and (b) are not subject to being called for redemption. Each such warrant entitles the holder to purchase one-half of one share of our Common Stock at a price of \$5.75 per one-half of one share (\$11.50 per whole share), subject to adjustment.

Warrant Exchange

On March 2, 2015, we completed our offer to exchange up to a maximum of 5,750,000 of our outstanding Public Warrants for shares of our common stock, at an exchange ratio of 0.1 of a share for each Public Warrant validly tendered and not withdrawn (approximately one share for every ten Public Warrants tendered). A total of 2,690,462 Public Warrants were tendered and not properly withdrawn, resulting in a total of 269,046 shares of common stock being issued. On March 17, 2015, we completed a second offer to exchange Placement Warrants for shares of our common stock, and in such exchange offer, a total of 9,434,538 Placement Warrants were tendered and not properly withdrawn, resulting in a total of 943,454 shares of our common stock being issued. There were no cash proceeds to the Company from these exchange transactions. Immediately after the exchanges, a total of 2,690,462 Placement Warrants and 8,809,538 Public Warrants were outstanding.

14. Earnings Per Share

The following table presents the basic and diluted earnings per share computation for the fiscal years presented:

<i>(in thousands except share data)</i>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Numerator:			
Net income	\$ 28,801	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,932
Less: Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax	41	(328)	(129)
Income from continuing operations, net of tax	<u>28,760</u>	<u>7,228</u>	<u>15,061</u>
Less: preferred stock dividends	4,261	3,878	2,438
Less: preferred stock repurchase	6,091	—	—
Income from continuing operations available to common stockholders, net of tax	<u>\$ 18,408</u>	<u>\$ 3,350</u>	<u>\$ 12,623</u>
Basic earnings per share (1):			
Weighted average common shares outstanding	<u>23,343,772</u>	<u>21,252,616</u>	<u>21,182,885</u>
Basic earnings per share, continuing operations	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.60
Basic earnings per share, discontinued operations	—	(0.02)	(0.01)
Basic earnings per share	<u>\$ 0.79</u>	<u>\$ 0.14</u>	<u>\$ 0.59</u>
Diluted earnings per share (2):			
Weighted average common shares outstanding	23,343,772	21,252,616	21,182,885
Weighted average dilutive securities, convertible preferred stock	—	—	4,314,064
Weighted average dilutive securities, restricted stock	19,073	60,401	653
Weighted average dilutive securities, warrants	1,280,265	—	—
Weighted average dilutive securities, stock options	<u>234,619</u>	<u>2,602</u>	<u>—</u>
Weighted average shares and dilutive potential common shares	<u>24,877,729</u>	<u>21,315,619</u>	<u>25,497,602</u>
Diluted earnings per share, continuing operations	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.59
Diluted earnings per share, discontinued operations	—	(0.02)	—
Diluted earnings per share	<u>\$ 0.74</u>	<u>\$ 0.14</u>	<u>\$ 0.59</u>

(1) Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing income available to common stockholders from continuing operations, discontinued operations, and total net income by the weighted average common shares outstanding during the period. For purposes of calculating basic earnings per share, income available to common stockholders is reduced in periods where we have paid a dividend or accrued for a dividend payment on our convertible preferred stock.

(2) Diluted earnings per share is calculated by adjusting the weighted average shares outstanding for the dilutive effect of common stock equivalents outstanding for the period, determined by using the treasury-stock method, and adjusting for the dilutive effect of our convertible preferred stock, determined by using the if-converted method. For the fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016, 4,302,212 and 4,314,064 shares, respectively, of potentially dilutive convertible preferred stock were excluded from the calculation since the if-converted impact would be anti-dilutive and, as a result, the numerator used in the calculation included the impact on income of preferred stock dividends and the excess of fair value over carrying value for preferred stock repurchase. Potentially dilutive common stock equivalents totaling 12,295, 173,009, and 311,809 shares, respectively, were excluded from the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016, and 2015 calculations since their impact would be anti-dilutive.

15. Share-Based Compensation

In fiscal 2015, we adopted the Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors. Under the Plan, the Committee may grant awards for the issuance up to an aggregate of 3,700,000 shares of common stock in the form of non-qualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights (collectively, "SARs" and each individually a "SAR"), restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units, incentive bonus awards, other cash-based awards and other stock-based awards. The exercise price of a share subject to a stock option may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of a share of the Company's common stock with respect to the grant date of such stock option. In fiscal years prior to 2015, we had not granted any stock options or other stock-settled awards. No portion of the options shall vest and become exercisable after the date on which the Optionee's service with the Company and its subsidiaries terminates. The vesting of all unvested shares of

common stock subject to an option will automatically be accelerated in connection with a "Change in Control," as defined in the Plan. New shares of the Company's common stock are issued upon stock option exercises, or at the time of vesting for restricted stock.

Stock-based payments to employees, including grants of stock options, restricted stock ("RSAs") and restricted stock units ("RSUs"), are recognized in the financial statements based on their fair value. The fair value of each stock option award on the grant date is estimated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions: expected dividend yield, expected stock price volatility, weighted-average risk-free interest rate and weighted average expected term of the options. The volatility assumption used in the Black-Scholes option-pricing model is based on peer group volatility because we do not have a sufficient trading history as a stand-alone public company. Because we do not have sufficient history with respect to stock option activity and post-vesting cancellations, the expected term assumption is based on the simplified method under GAAP, which is based on the vesting period and contractual term for each vesting tranche of awards. The mid-point between the vesting date and the expiration date is used as the expected term under this method. The risk-free interest rate used in the Black-Scholes model is based on the implied yield curve available on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon issues at the date of grant with a remaining term equal to the Company's expected term assumption. The Company has never declared or paid a cash dividend on common shares. Restricted stock units and restricted stock awards are valued based on the intrinsic value of the difference between the exercise price, if any, of the award and the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date. We expense any award with graded-vesting features using a straight-line attribution method.

All outstanding share-based compensation awards vested upon the change in control which took place on June 8, 2016. Concurrent with the change in control, certain awards not considered as granted under GAAP due to fiscal 2017 and 2018 performance criteria which had not been established, were granted for accounting purposes and immediately vested and expensed with the change in control. Refer to Note 4, *Business Combination, Subsequent Change in Control and Stock Repurchase*, for more information on the change in control.

Restricted Stock Awards

The following table summarizes the Company's RSA and RSU award activity for the fiscal year presented:

Restricted Stock Activity	2017	
	Number of Shares	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value
Balance, beginning of year	—	\$ —
Granted	77,451	15.82
Forfeited	(1,861)	15.50
Balance, end of year	<u>75,590</u>	15.83

The weighted-average grant date fair value of restricted stock awards granted in the fiscal years ended 2016 and 2015 was \$10.82 and \$13.18, respectively.

Compensation expense for restricted stock awards, recognized in selling, general and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations, was \$0.8 million, \$8.7 million, and \$0.9 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively, with associated tax benefits of \$0.3 million, \$3.0 million, and \$0.3 million, respectively. At September 30, 2017, unrecognized compensation cost related to restricted stock awards totaled \$0.3 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of four months.

Stock Option Awards

The following table summarizes the Company's stock option activity for the fiscal year presented:

	2017	
	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price per Share (\$)
Outstanding options, beginning of year	918,749	\$ 10.08
Granted	133,484	15.50
Exercised	(418,148)	10.08
Forfeited	(10,123)	15.50
Outstanding options, end of year	623,962	\$ 11.15
Fully vested and exercisable options, end of year (1)	500,601	\$ 10.07

(1) Fully vested and exercisable options at year end had an aggregate intrinsic value totaling \$5.3 million with a weighted average contractual term of 7.6 years

The total aggregate intrinsic value of stock options exercised during the fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016 were \$2.3 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. No stock options were exercised or exercisable during the fiscal year ended 2015.

Compensation expense for stock option awards, recognized in selling, general and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations, was \$0.4 million, \$4.0 million, and \$0.7 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively, with associated tax benefits of \$0.1 million, \$1.4 million, and \$0.2 million, respectively. At September 30, 2017, unrecognized compensation cost related to stock option awards totaled \$0.2 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of three months.

The fair value of each option award at grant date was estimated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions made and resulting grant-date fair values during the fiscal years presented:

	2017	2016	2015
Expected volatility	33.7%	33.7%	40.1%
Expected dividend yield	0%	0%	0%
Risk-free interest rate	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%
Expected term (in years)	5.5	4.7	6.0
Weighted-average grant-date fair value	\$ 5.35	\$ 3.72	\$ 4.14

Phantom Award

A phantom stock award plan was adopted by the Company in February 2007 (as amended and restated from time to time, the "Phantom Award Plan"). Upon vesting of a phantom award, the participants (including employees, directors, officers and consultants of the Company) were eligible to receive a cash payment subject to the initial investors in the Company receiving an agreed upon return of capital. There have been three events that met the required return on capital to our investors to trigger a Phantom Award Plan payment: (a) in June 2016, in conjunction with the change in control of the Company's major stockholder, the board of directors approved for all Phantom Award Plan participants a payment of \$17.1 million, which was primarily funded by a \$17.0 million contribution from our former major stockholder, (b) in February 2015, in conjunction with the Business Combination, the board of directors approved for all Phantom Award Plan participants a payment of \$13.8 million, which was primarily funded by a \$13.6 million contribution from our former major stockholder, and (c) in June 2014, in conjunction with a dividend payment to our former sole stockholder, the board of directors approved a payment for all Phantom Award Plan participants totaling \$24.7 million with a grant date fair value of awards granted totaling \$9.9 million.

With the 2016 payment and change in control, this incentive program was terminated.

16. Benefit Plans

Defined Benefit Pension Plans

The Company has a defined benefit pension plan (the “Defined Benefit Plan”) covering U.S. hourly and salaried personnel. On May 13, 2002, the Defined Benefit Plan was amended to freeze new participation as of May 15, 2002, and therefore, any new employees who started on or after May 15, 2002 were not permitted to participate in the Defined Benefit Plan. Effective January 1, 2006, the benefit plan was frozen to all participants. No accrual of future benefits will be calculated beyond this date.

The Company contributed \$5.4 million and \$5.3 million to the Defined Benefit Plan during the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively. For the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, benefits paid were \$6.9 million and \$6.3 million, respectively. The projected benefit obligation (“PBO”) for the Defined Benefit Plan was \$144.7 million and \$157.0 million at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively.

The reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the PBO for the Defined Benefit Plan for the fiscal years indicated is presented in the following table:

	Benefit Obligation	
	2017	2016
<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>		
Projected benefit obligation balance, beginning of year	\$ 157,030	\$ 142,798
Interest cost	5,063	5,643
Assumption changes (1)	(9,621)	14,402
Actuarial gain	(798)	440
Benefits paid	(6,937)	(6,253)
Projected benefit obligations balance, end of year	<u>\$ 144,737</u>	<u>\$ 157,030</u>

(1) The assumption changes referenced in the table above result from (i) changes in the utilized discount rate to value Blue Bird’s future obligations and (ii) updates to the mortality table projections used in the calculation of the benefit obligations.

Plan Assets: The summary and reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the fair value of the plan assets are as follows:

	Plan Assets	
	2017	2016
<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>		
Fair value of plan assets, beginning of year	\$ 100,662	\$ 96,371
Actual return on plan assets	14,702	6,337
Employer contribution	5,414	5,305
Expenses	(1,530)	(1,098)
Benefits paid	(6,937)	(6,253)
Fair value of plan assets, end of year	<u>\$ 112,311</u>	<u>\$ 100,662</u>

Funded Status: The following table reconciles the benefit obligations, plan assets, funded status and net liability information of the Defined Benefit Plan at the dates indicated. The net pension liability is reflected in long-term liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

	Funded Status	
	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>		
Benefit obligation	\$ 144,737	\$ 157,030
Fair value of plan assets	112,311	100,662
Funded status	(32,426)	(56,368)
Net pension liability recognized	<u>\$ (32,426)</u>	<u>\$ (56,368)</u>

Fair Value of Plan Assets: The Company determines the fair value of its financial instruments in accordance with the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the ASC. Fair value is the price to hypothetically sell an asset or transfer a liability in an orderly manner in the principal market for that asset or liability. This topic provides a hierarchy that gives highest priority to unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. This topic requires that financial assets and liabilities are classified into one of the following three categories:

- Level 1 Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for similar assets or liabilities, or unadjusted quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability
- Level 3 Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

The Company evaluates fair value measurement inputs on an ongoing basis in order to determine if there is a change of sufficient significance to warrant a transfer between levels. Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are recognized on the actual date of the event or circumstances that caused the transfer, which generally coincides with the Company's valuation process.

The Defined Benefit Plan assets are comprised of various investment funds, which are valued based upon their quoted market prices. The invested pension plan assets of the Defined Benefit Plan are all Level 2 assets under ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements ("ASC 820"). During the fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016, there were no transfers between levels. There are no sources of significant concentration risk in the invested assets at September 30, 2017, the measurement date.

The following table sets forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, a summary of the Defined Benefit Plan's investments measured at fair value:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 30, 2017				
Assets:				
Equity securities	\$ —	\$ 80,795	\$ —	\$ 80,795
Debt securities	—	31,516	—	31,516
Total assets at fair value	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 112,311</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 112,311</u>
October 1, 2016				
Assets:				
Equity securities	\$ —	\$ 58,904	\$ —	\$ 58,904
Debt securities	—	41,758	—	41,758
Total assets at fair value	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 100,662</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 100,662</u>

The following table represents net periodic benefit cost and changes in plan assets and benefit obligations recognized in other comprehensive income, before tax effect, for the fiscal years presented:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Interest cost	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,643	\$ 5,707
Expected return on plan assets	(6,358)	(6,112)	(6,443)
Amortization of net loss	6,291	4,787	3,567
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 4,996</u>	<u>\$ 4,318</u>	<u>\$ 2,831</u>
Net (gain) loss	\$ (17,232)	\$ 15,716	\$ 11,797
Amortization of net loss	(6,291)	(4,787)	(3,567)
Total (gain) loss recognized in other comprehensive income	<u>\$ (23,523)</u>	<u>\$ 10,929</u>	<u>\$ 8,230</u>
Total (gain) loss recognized in net periodic pension benefit cost and other comprehensive income	<u>\$ (18,527)</u>	<u>\$ 15,247</u>	<u>\$ 11,061</u>

The estimated net loss for the Defined Benefit Plan that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive loss into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year is \$3.5 million. The unrecognized gain or loss is amortized as follows: the total unrecognized gain or loss, less the larger of 10% of the liability or 10% of the assets, is divided by the average future working lifetime of active plan participants.

The following actuarial assumptions were used to determine the benefit obligations at the dates indicated:

Weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations:	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Discount rate	3.85%	3.30%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A
Weighted-average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost:	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Discount rate	3.30%	4.05%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	6.37%	6.37%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A

The benchmark for the discount rates is an estimate of the single equivalent discount rate determined by matching the Defined Benefit Plan's future expected cash flows to spot rates from a yield curve comprised of high quality corporate bond rates of various durations.

The Defined Benefit Plan asset allocations at the dates indicated, the measurement date, are as follows:

	September 30, 2017	October 1, 2016
Equity securities	72%	59%
Debt securities	28%	41%
	100%	100%

There was no Company common stock included in equity securities. Assets of the Defined Benefit Plan are invested primarily in U.S. government securities, common stock funds and cash management funds. Assets are valued using quoted prices in active markets.

The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets reflects the average rate of earnings expected on the funds invested, or to be invested, to provide for the benefits included in the PBO. In estimating that rate, appropriate consideration is given to the returns being earned by the plan assets in the fund and rates of return expected to be available for reinvestment and a building block method. The expected rate of return on each asset class is broken down into three components: (1) inflation, (2) the real risk-free rate of return (i.e., the long term estimate of future returns on default free U.S. government securities) and (3) the risk premium for each asset class (i.e., the expected return in excess of the risk-free rate).

The investment strategy for pension plan assets is to limit risk through asset allocation, diversification, selection and timing. Assets are managed on a total return basis, with dividends and interest reinvested in the account.

The Company expects to contribute approximately \$5.9 million to its Defined Benefit Plan in fiscal year 2018. The following benefit payments are expected to be paid to the Company's pension plan participants in the fiscal years indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	Expected Payments
2018	\$ 7,499
2019	7,653
2020	7,750
2021	7,930
2022	8,137
2023 - 2027	42,869
Total expected future benefit payments	\$ 81,838

Defined Contribution Plans

The Company offers a defined contribution 401(k) plan covering substantially all U.S. employees and a defined contribution plan for Canadian employees. During the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Company offered a 50% match on the first 6% of the employee's contributions. The plans also provide for an additional discretionary match depending on Company performance. Compensation expense related to defined contribution plans totaled \$1.9 million, \$1.7 million and \$1.7 million for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Health Benefits

The Company provides and is predominantly self-insured for medical, dental, and accident and sickness benefits. A liability related to this obligation is recorded on the Company's balance sheet under accrued expenses. Total expense related to this plan recorded for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016, and 2015, was \$13.6 million, \$12.3 million, and \$10 million, respectively.

Employee Compensation Plans

The Management Incentive Plan (the "MIP") compensates certain key salaried management employees and is based on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") performance as well as a net debt metric. MIP bonus liabilities of \$3.5 million and \$5.6 million are included in accrued expenses on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, respectively.

17. Equity Investment in Affiliate

On October 14, 2009, Blue Bird and Girardin Minibus entered into a venture, Micro Bird Holdings, Inc. ("Micro Bird"), to combine the complementary expertise of the two separate manufacturers. Blue Bird Micro Bird by Girardin Type A buses are produced in Drummondville, Quebec by Micro Bird.

The Company holds a 50% equity interest in Micro Bird Holdings, Inc. ("Micro Bird"), and accounts for Micro Bird under the equity method of accounting as the Company does not have control to direct the activities that most significantly impact Micro Bird's financial performance based on the shared powers of the venture partners. The carrying amount of the equity method investment is adjusted for the Company's proportionate share of net earnings or losses and reduced by any dividends received. At September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016, the Company had an investment of \$11.6 million and \$12.9 million, respectively. During fiscal years ended 2017 and 2016, Micro Bird paid dividends to all common stockholders, and the Company received \$4.6 million and \$2.3 million, respectively, net of required withholding taxes. The dividends reduced the carrying value of our investment and are presented as cash inflows in the operating section of our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

In recognizing the Company's 50% portion of Micro Bird net income, the Company recorded \$3.3 million, \$2.9 million and \$2.6 million in equity in net income of non-consolidated affiliate for the fiscal years ended 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

18. Foreign Exchange Contracts

The Company enters into foreign exchange swaps as economic hedges of anticipated cash flows denominated in Canadian Dollars. The contracts are entered into to protect against the risk that the eventual cash flows resulting from certain transactions would be affected by changes in exchange rates between the U.S. Dollar and the Canadian Dollar. The foreign exchange contracts qualify for hedge accounting and have been designated as cash flow hedges with the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative instruments recorded in other comprehensive income until the underlying transactions occur. Once the anticipated transactions occur, the gains or losses on the swaps are recorded in current period earnings on the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

The fair values of outstanding foreign exchange contracts are based on forward contract rates, which classify as Level 2 fair value measurements. At October 1, 2016, the fair value of the foreign exchange contracts was \$0.2 million and included in "other current liabilities" on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. At September 30, 2017, the Company had no foreign exchange swap contracts outstanding.

The table below presents the effect of the Company's cash flow hedges for the periods presented:

Foreign Exchange Contracts <i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	Location	2017	2016
Amount of loss recognized in income on derivatives (effective portion)	OCI	\$ 344	\$ (236)
Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI into income (effective portion)	Net sales	(97)	440
Amount of gain reclassified from AOCI into income (effective portion)	Other expense	(227)	(224)
Total amount recognized in other comprehensive loss		<u>\$ 20</u>	<u>\$ (20)</u>

19. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

The following table provides information on changes in accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”) for the periods presented:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	Cash Flow Hedges (Effective Portion)	Total AOCI
Balance, September 27, 2014	\$ (46,568)	\$ —	\$ (46,568)
Other comprehensive loss, gross	(11,797)	—	(11,797)
Amounts reclassified from other comprehensive income and included in earnings	3,567	—	3,567
Total other comprehensive loss, before taxes	(8,230)	—	(8,230)
Income tax benefit	3,024	—	3,024
Balance, October 3, 2015	\$ (51,774)	\$ —	\$ (51,774)
Other comprehensive loss, gross	(15,716)	(236)	(15,952)
Amounts reclassified from other comprehensive income and included in earnings	4,787	216	5,003
Total other comprehensive loss, before taxes	(10,929)	(20)	(10,949)
Income tax benefit	3,825	7	3,832
Balance, October 1, 2016	\$ (58,878)	\$ (13)	\$ (58,891)
Other comprehensive income, gross	17,232	344	17,576
Amounts reclassified from other comprehensive income and included in earnings	6,291	(324)	5,967
Total other comprehensive income, before taxes	23,523	20	23,543
Income tax expense	(8,520)	(7)	(8,527)
Balance, September 30, 2017	\$ (43,875)	\$ —	\$ (43,875)

20. Subsequent Events

The Company evaluated subsequent events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure in the consolidated financial statements through the date the consolidated financial statements were issued.

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

Changes in Certifying Accountant

Fiscal 2016

Dismissal of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

On September 19, 2016, the Company's Audit Committee of the Board of Directors made the determination to dismiss PwC as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. PwC was informed of the dismissal on September 20, 2016. PwC's reports on the Company's consolidated financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended October 3, 2015 and September 27, 2014, did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

During the Company's two most recent fiscal years ended October 3, 2015 and September 27, 2014, and the subsequent interim period through September 19, 2016, there were no disagreements within the meaning of Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K, between the Company and PwC on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, any of which, if not resolved to PwC's satisfaction, would have caused PwC to make reference to the subject matter of any such disagreement in connection with its report for such years. During the Company's two most recent fiscal years ended October 3, 2015 and September 27, 2014, and the subsequent interim period through September 19, 2016, there were no reportable events within the meaning of Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K, except as follows: As previously disclosed in our Definitive Proxy Statement filed with the SEC on January 20, 2015 and periodic reports filed through our third quarter ended July 4, 2015, controls over the preparation and review of the financial statements and disclosures, including interim financial information, were not performed within a time frame and at a level of precision to prevent or detect a material misstatement. Specifically, the Company's financial reporting resources did not have the appropriate capacity, level of accounting knowledge, and experience commensurate with the Company's financial requirements. Also, as previously disclosed in this same time frame, management identified a control deficiency within our information technology controls related to user access as certain users had access not commensurate with their roles.

In Part I, Item 4 of the Company's Form 10-Q for the period ended July 2, 2016 filed on August 16, 2016, we disclosed the existence of material weaknesses as of July 2, 2016 that were also present as of our previous fiscal year ended October 3, 2015. Specifically, we did not maintain effective internal control that restricts access to key financial systems and records to appropriate users and ensures that appropriate segregation of duties is maintained. These material weaknesses are reportable events within the meaning of Item 304(a)(1)(v)(A) of Regulation S-K. The Audit Committee discussed each reportable event with PwC, and PwC is authorized to respond fully to the inquiries of the successor accountant (reported below) concerning the reportable events.

The Company provided PwC with a copy of its Current Report on Form 8-K prior to its filing with the SEC and requested that PwC furnish it with a letter addressed to the SEC stating whether or not it agrees with the above statements. A copy of PwC's letter, dated September 23, 2016, was filed as Exhibit 16.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 23, 2016.

Engagement of New Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

On September 19, 2016, the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors approved the appointment of BDO USA, LLP ("**BDO**") to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm to audit the Company's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending October 1, 2016. On September 23, 2016, the Company formally engaged BDO.

During the fiscal years ended October 3, 2015 and September 27, 2014 and the subsequent interim period through September 19, 2016, the Company did not consult with BDO regarding any of the matters or events set forth in Item 304(a)(2)(i) and (ii) of Regulation S-K.

Fiscal 2017

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports the Company files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), 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 the Company's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives.

In connection with the preparation of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Company carried out an evaluation under the supervision of and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as of September 30, 2017, on the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act. Based on their evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act. Our internal control over financial reporting is 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 (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) 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 (iii) 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.

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.

Management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the end of the period covered by this Report. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO") in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)*. Based on management's assessment and those criteria, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of September 30, 2017.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the fourth fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2017 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

PART III

Certain information required by Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated by reference from the Company's definitive proxy statement (the "*Proxy Statement*") to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A for the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held in March 2018. The Company will, within 120 days of the end of its fiscal year, file the Proxy Statement with the SEC or supply the information required by this Part III by amendment to this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information responsive to this item is incorporated by reference from the sections entitled "Corporate Governance and Board Matters", "Election of Directors" and "Information Concerning Management" contained in the Proxy Statement.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information responsive to this item is incorporated by reference from the section entitled "Director and Executive Compensation" contained in the Proxy Statement.

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

The information responsive to this item is incorporated by reference from the section entitled "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management" contained in the Proxy Statement. See also the section entitled "Equity Compensation Plan Information" in Item 5 of this Report.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

The information responsive to this item is incorporated by reference from the sections entitled "Corporate Governance and Board Matters" and "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" contained in the Proxy Statement.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The information responsive to this item is incorporated by reference from the section entitled "Certain Accounting and Audit Matters" contained in the Proxy Statement.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a) Index

(1) Financial Statements.

The following financial statements are located in [Item 8](#) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

[Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm](#)

[Consolidated Balance Sheets](#) at September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2016

[Consolidated Statements of Operations](#) for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017, October 1, 2016 and October 3, 2015

[Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income \(Loss\)](#) for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017, October 1, 2016 and October 3, 2015

[Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit](#) for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017, October 1, 2016 and October 3, 2015

[Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows](#) for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017, October 1, 2016 and October 3, 2015

[Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements](#)

(2) Financial Statement Schedules.

[Financial Statement Schedule II - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts](#)

All other schedules are not required under the related instructions or are not applicable.

(b) Exhibits

Exhibit No. **Description**

2.1†	Purchase Agreement, dated as of September 21, 2014, by and among the registrant, Hennessy Capital Partners I LLC (solely for purposes of Section 10.01(a) thereof) and The Traxis Group B.V. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on September 24, 2014).
2.2	Amendment No. 1 to Purchase Agreement, dated as of February 10, 2015, by and among the registrant, Hennessy Capital Partners I LLC (solely for purposes of Section 10.01(a) thereof) and The Traxis Group B.V. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on February 11, 2015).
2.3	Amendment No. 2 to Purchase Agreement, dated as of February 18, 2015, by and among the registrant, Hennessy Capital Partners I LLC (solely for purposes of Section 10.01(a) thereof) and The Traxis Group B.V. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on February 19, 2015).
3.1	The registrant's Second Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on February 26, 2015)
3.2	The registrant's Certificate of Designations establishing its Series A Convertible Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on February 26, 2015).
3.3	The registrant's Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the registrant's registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-192982) filed by the registrant on December 20, 2013).

- 4.1 [Specimen stock certificate for the registrant’s common stock \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 4.2 [Specimen stock certificate for the registrant’s Series A Convertible Preferred Stock \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 4.3 [The registrant’s Certificate of Designations establishing its Series A Convertible Preferred Stock \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on February 26, 2015\).](#)
- 4.4 [Specimen warrant certificate \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 4.5 [Warrant Agreement, dated as of January 16, 2014, between Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company and the registrant \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on January 23, 2014\).](#)
- 4.6 [Credit Agreement dated as of December 12, 2016 by and among Blue Bird Corporation, School Bus Holdings, Inc. and certain of its subsidiaries and affiliates and Bank of Montreal, as Administrative Agent and an Issuing Bank, Fifth Third Bank, as Co-Syndication Agent and an Issuing Bank and Regions Bank, as Co-Syndication Agent, and the other lenders party thereto, together with certain exhibits \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on December 15, 2016\).](#)
- 10.1 [Registration Rights Agreement between the registrant and certain security holders entered into in connection with the registrant’s initial public offering \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on January 23, 2014\).](#)
- 10.2†† [Blue Bird Corporation 2015 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan \(the “Incentive Plan”\) \(incorporated by reference to Annex D to the registrant’s definitive Proxy Statement, as filed on January 20, 2015\).](#)
- 10.3 [Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of February 24, 2015, by and among the registrant, The Traxis Group B.V. and the investors named therein \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 10.4†† [Phantom Equity Plan \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 10.5†† [Amendment No. 1 to Phantom Equity Plan \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 10.6†† [Form of grant agreement for incentive stock options granted under the registrant’s Incentive Plan \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 10.7†† [Form of grant agreement for non-qualified stock options granted under the registrant’s Incentive Plan \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 10.8†† [Form of grant agreement for restricted stock granted under the registrant’s Incentive Plan \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 10.9†† [Form of grant agreement for restricted stock units granted under the registrant’s Incentive Plan \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)
- 10.10 [Form of indemnity agreement between the registrant and each of its directors and executive officers \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015\).](#)

- 10.11††** [Employment Agreement, dated as of April 1, 2011, between School Bus Holdings Inc. and Philip Horlock \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed by the registrant on April 23, 2015\).](#)
- 10.12††** [First Amendment to Employment Agreement dated as of April 1, 2011 between School Bus Holdings Inc. and Philip Horlock made as of June 1, 2012 \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed by the registrant on April 23, 2015\).](#)
- 10.13††** [Severance Agreement, dated as of May 10, 2012, between Blue Bird Corporation and Phillip Tighe \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed by the registrant on April 23, 2015\).](#)
- 10.14††** [Severance Agreement, dated as of July 1, 2008, between School Bus Holdings Inc. and Paul Yousif \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed by the registrant on April 23, 2015\).](#)
- 10.15††** [Form of Restricted Stock Unit Grant Agreement for directors under the registrant’s Incentive Plan \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q/A filed by the registrant on August 18, 2015\).](#)
- 10.16** [Purchase and Sale Agreement dated May 26, 2016 by and among The Traxis Group G.V., Blue Bird Corporation, and ASP BB Holdings LLC \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on May 27, 2016\).](#)
- 10.17** [Letter Agreement dated May 26, 2016 among American Securities LLC, ASP BB Holdings LLC and Blue Bird Corporation \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on May 27, 2016\).](#)
- 10.18** [Credit Agreement dated as of December 12, 2016 by and among Blue Bird Corporation, School Bus Holdings, Inc. and certain of its subsidiaries and affiliates and Bank of Montreal, as Administrative Agent and an Issuing Bank, Fifth Third Bank, as Co-Syndication Agent and an Issuing Bank and Regions Bank, as Co-Syndication Agent, and the other lenders party thereto, together with certain exhibits \(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on December 15, 2016\).](#)
- 10.19††*** [Offer Letter dated March 29, 2016 and Severance Agreement dated April 18, 2016 between Blue Bird Corporation and Mark Terry \(filed herewith\).](#)
- 10.20††*** [Offer Letter dated October 19, 2015 between Blue Bird Corporation and Tom Roberts \(filed herewith\).](#)
- 10.21*** [Securities Purchase Agreement dated September 23, 2017 by and among Blue Bird Corporation and Coliseum Capital Partners, L.P., Coliseum Capital Partners II, L.P., Blackwell Partners, LLC - Series A, and Coliseum School Bus Holdings, LLC \(filed herewith\).](#)
- 21.1*** [Subsidiaries of the registrant.](#)
- 23.1*** [Consent of BDO USA, LLP.](#)
- 23.2*** [Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.](#)
- 31.1*** [Chief Executive Officer’s Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14\(a\) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.](#)
- 31.2*** [Chief Financial Officer’s Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14\(a\) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.](#)
- 32.1*** [Chief Executive Officer’s Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.](#)
- 32.2*** [Chief Financial Officer’s Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.](#)

99.1	<u>Amended and restated charter of the Audit Committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015).</u>
99.2	<u>Amended and restated charter of the Compensation Committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015).</u>
99.3	<u>Charter of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant on March 2, 2015).</u>
101.INS*^	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH*^	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL*^	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.DEF*^	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
101.LAB*^	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
101.PRE*^	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.

*Filed herewith.

†The exhibits and schedules to this Exhibit have been omitted in accordance with Regulation S-K Item 601(b)(2). The Registrant agrees to furnish supplementally a copy of all omitted exhibits and schedules to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon its request.

††Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

^In accordance with Regulation S-T, XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) related information in Exhibit No. (101) to this Annual Report on Form 10-K shall be deemed "furnished" and not "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, and shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific preference in such filing.

Item 16. Form 10-K Summary

Omitted at registrant's option.

SCHEDULE II- VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS

(in thousands of dollars)

Fiscal Year Ended	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts			
	Beginning Balance	Charges to Expense/(Income)	Doubtful Accounts Written Off, Net	Ending Balance
October 3, 2015	\$ 71	\$ 34	\$ —	\$ 105
October 1, 2016	105	(5)	—	100
September 30, 2017	100	—	—	100

(in thousands of dollars)

Fiscal Year Ended	Deferred Tax Valuation Allowance			
	Beginning Balance	Charges to Expense/(Income)	Charges utilized/Write offs	Ending Balance
October 3, 2015	\$ 672	\$ —	\$ (1)	\$ 671
October 1, 2016	671	(86)	(27)	558
September 30, 2017	558	92	—	650

SIGNATURES

In accordance with 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.

Date: December 8, 2017

By: /s/ Philip Horlock

Philip Horlock
President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this Report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Person</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Phil Horlock</u> Phil Horlock	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Phil Tighe</u> Phil Tighe	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Gurminder S. Bedi</u> Gurminder S. Bedi	Director	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Chan Galbato</u> Chan Galbato	Director	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Douglas Grimm</u> Douglas Grimm	Director	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Daniel J. Hennessy</u> Daniel J. Hennessy	Director	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Kevin Penn</u> Kevin Penn	Director	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Michael Sand</u> Michael Sand	Director	December 8, 2017
<u>/s/ Alan H. Schumacher</u> Alan H. Schumacher	Director	December 8, 2017

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Section 2: EX-10.19 (EXHIBIT 10.19)



March 29, 2016

Mark Terry
150 South Fork Road
Tyrone, GA 30290

Dear Mark,

We are pleased to confirm our offer of employment to you on the following terms:

Position

Chief Commercial Officer, reporting to Phil Horlock, President and CEO. You will have the duties and responsibilities of that position and will be a member of the senior leadership team.

Base Salary

Your base salary will be \$300,000 annually. It will be payable on the 10th and 25th of each month.

Management Performance Bonus Plan

You will also be eligible for participation in the Blue Bird Performance Bonus Plan with a target bonus of 100% of your base salary. For FY2016, your participation will be on a pro rata basis. The Bonus is based on the Company meeting certain financial objectives involving EBITDA and Net Debt Improvement.

Equity

Subject to the approval of the Board's Compensation Committee, you shall be eligible to participate in the Blue Bird Corporation Omnibus 2015 Equity Incentive Plan. The Compensation Committee reviews compensation and issues equity grants at its December meeting.

Withholding

All pay, incentives and other compensation shall be subject to applicable withholdings for federal, state and local taxes and shall be payable in accordance with the Company's regular payroll policies.

Benefits

While employed by the Company, you will be entitled to participate in all benefit plans in which employees are generally eligible to participate, including the following:

- Company Life insurance and AD&D are administered by Metlife;
 - Blue Bird will provide you with three times your annual salary in life coverage (maximum \$1M). You may elect to take additional optional life insurance for you, your spouse and children (if applicable).
- Salaried Short-Term disability (self-administrated)
 - Blue Bird will provide regular payroll for 180 days
- Executive Supplemental Long-Term Disability program (after 180 days) provided through Unum

- Blue Bird will provide individual disability plan which pays 75% of base with monthly maximum of \$10,000 benefit to Age 67
- 401k Retirement Savings program administered through MassMutual. Following 90 days of continuous employment, the company will match 50% of your contribution to 6%.
- Company-sponsored healthcare coverage.

Expense Reimbursement

You shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for all appropriate traveling and other business expenses in accordance with the policies of the Company.

Relocation

The relocation benefit will be administered through Vision Relocation and will be subject to the terms of the Blue Bird's Relocation Policy. The relocation benefit will include at the Company's expense a corporate apartment in Macon, Georgia for six months. The Company will also cover the normal closing costs on the sale of your current residence and the purchase of a primary residence in the Macon, Georgia area if the sale and purchase occur within one year from your start date.

Car Allowance

You shall be entitled to a monthly car allowance of \$980, less required deductions, to be paid in semi-monthly installments.

Paid Time Off

You shall be entitled to four weeks' vacation and two attendance days of paid time off annually. One week of vacation will be allotted to the Christmas Shutdown in December. The carry-over and accrual of paid time off days shall be in accordance with Company policy.

Employment at Will

Notwithstanding anything in this Letter Agreement to the contrary, your employment by the Company will be at will and may be terminated by the Company at any time, subject to the company's generally applicable employment policies.

Your Start Date

Unless otherwise agreed upon, it is anticipated your start date will be April 18, 2016.

Severance Agreement

If the Company terminates your employment without cause, the Company will in accordance with its severance policies continue to pay you your base salary for twelve months.

Amendment or Termination of Plans or Practices

The Company continues to reserve the right to modify, amend or terminate any of the employee benefit plans or practices. In all cases, the terms of all plans shall determine your eligibility for compensation and benefits.

E-Verify

As a federal contractor, we are required to verify the eligibility of all new hires to the Department of Homeland Security utilizing the E-Verify website. As such, you will be required to provide to the Company documentary evidence of your identity and eligibility for employment in the United States. Such documentation must be provided to us within three (3) business days from your date of hire, or our employment relationship with you may be terminated. If you are unsure what documents are acceptable, please contact me prior to your start date for the current list.

Disclosure, Confidentiality, Non-Compete, Non-Solicitation

We also ask that, if you have not already done so, you disclose to the Company any and all agreements relating to your prior employment that may affect your eligibility to be employed by the Company or limit the manner in which you may be employed. It is the Company's understanding that any such agreements will not prevent you from performing the duties of your position and you represent that such is the case. Moreover, you agree that, during the term of your employment with the Company, you will not engage in any other employment, occupation, consulting or other business activity directly related to the business in which the Company is now involved or becomes involved during the term of your employment, nor will you engage in any other activities that conflict with your obligations to the Company. Similarly, you agree not to bring any third party confidential information to the Company, including that of your former employer, and that in performing your duties for the Company you will not in any way utilize any such information.

As a condition of your employment, you are also required to sign and return the following documents prior to your first day of employment:

- At-Will Employment
- Confidentiality, Non-Compete, Non-Solicitation
- Relocation Agreement
- Severance Agreement

We look forward to welcoming you at Blue Bird. To accept this job offer, please sign and date where indicated below and also sign and date each of the required documents that are attached.

<u>/s/ Mark Terry</u>	<u>4/4/2016</u>
Mark Terry	Date

Sincerely,

/s/ Phil Horlock
 Phil Horlock
 President and Chief Executive Officer
 Blue Bird Corporation

SEVERANCE AGREEMENT

THIS SEVERANCE AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this 18th day of April 2016, by and between Blue Bird Corporation (the "Company") and Mark Terry (the "Employee") (the "Company" and the "Employee," collectively, the "Parties," each a "Party").

WHEREAS, the Employee is employed by the Company as Chief Commercial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to set forth the terms and conditions of any future termination of the Employee's employment with the Company;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Effective Date; Term. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date hereof and shall remain effective until the end of the Severance Period (the "Term").

2. Eligibility for Severance Benefits. The Employee shall receive the benefits provided for in Section 3 herein ("Severance Benefits") provided that:

a. the Employee's employment with the Company is terminated by the Company without Cause (as defined below) a "Qualifying Termination"; and

b. the Employee has complied and continues to comply with the restrictions and obligations set forth in Section 7 herein; and

c. the Employee signs, and does not revoke, a valid general release of all claims against the Company and its parents, subsidiaries, Affiliates (as defined in Section 7(a) herein), successors and assigns, and all such entities' respective current and former directors, officers, shareholders, members, partners, employees and agents in a form reasonably acceptable to the Company (the "Release"); and

d. the Employee has not breached any of the provisions of the Release or any provisions of this Agreement, as determined by the Company.

e. the Employee has not entered into a subsequent employment relationship. It is required that the Employee advise the Company in the event during the Severance period if they have accepted and the date that they began other employment. The paid severance will terminate at this point.

For the purposes of this Agreement, "Cause" means, as determined by the Company, (i) conviction of or plea of nolo contendere to a felony by the Employee; (ii) acts of dishonesty by the Employee resulting or intending to result in personal gain or enrichment at the expense of the Company or its parents, subsidiaries or Affiliates; (iii) the Employee's material breach of any agreement between the Company and the Employee or other Company policies as may be in effect from time to time, as amended from time to time; (iv) conduct by the Employee in connection with his or her duties that is fraudulent, unlawful or grossly negligent, including, but not limited to, acts of discrimination; (v) engaging in personal conduct by the Employee (including but not limited to employee harassment or discrimination, the use or possession at work of any illegal controlled substance) which seriously discredits or damages the Company or its parents, subsidiaries or Affiliates; (vi) continuing failure by the Employee to adequately perform his or her duties or continuing inattention to such duties; or (vii) breach of the Employee's restrictions and obligations set forth in Section 7 herein before the Termination Date.

3. Severance Benefits. In the event of a Qualifying Termination in which the Employee satisfies the conditions set forth in Section 2, the Employee shall receive as of the effective date of the termination of the Employee's employment with the Company (the "Termination Date") the following Severance Benefits:

- a. Continued payment of Base Salary as in effect on the Termination Date for a period of twelve (12) months after the Termination Date (the "Severance Period") (such continued payments, "Severance Payments"); and
- b. reimbursement of the cost of continuation coverage of group health coverage pursuant to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 ("COBRA") from the Termination Date until the earlier of (i) the last day of the Severance Period, or (ii) the date the Employee becomes eligible for group health benefits under a plan, policy or program of a subsequent employer, or (iii) the end of the Employee's eligibility period under COBRA; provided that the Employee is eligible for and elects such continuation coverage, and subject to the terms of the plan and applicable law. During any remaining period of continuation coverage, the Employee shall be responsible for the entire cost of such continuation coverage.

No other amounts (including, without limitation, any unpaid bonuses or amounts under any other severance plan, policy or arrangement) or benefits shall be payable or owed to the Employee upon or after the Termination Date, unless otherwise provided for under this Agreement or as otherwise may be required by law.

4. Payment of Severance Benefits. Severance Payments shall be made to the Employee in twelve (12) equal monthly installments, commencing on the first day of the month following the effective date of the Release. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Employee shall not be entitled to any Severance Benefits upon or after the Termination Date if the Employee has breached any of the covenants contained in Section 7. If the Company determines that the Employee has breached any of the provisions of the Release or any provisions of this Agreement after the Termination Date, in addition to any other remedies it may have, the Company shall not be liable to the Employee for any Severance Benefits that remain to be paid or provided to the Employee as of the date of the Company's determination that the Employee has breached any such provision. Furthermore, the Employee will immediately return to the Company any such Severance Benefits previously received under this Agreement upon such a breach, and, in the event of such breach, the Company will have no obligation to pay any Severance Benefits that otherwise remain payable.

5. Other Compensation and Benefits. In addition to any amounts received by the Employee pursuant to Section 3, upon termination of the Employee's employment with the Company the Employee shall also be entitled to: (i) the Employee's accrued but unpaid Base Salary to the Termination Date and any employee benefits the Employee may be entitled to pursuant to the employee benefit plans of the Company; (ii) the unpaid portion of any bonus, if any, relating to the calendar year prior to the calendar year of the Employee's termination of employment, payable on the earlier of (x) thirty days after the approval by the Board of the consolidated financial statements of the Company, and (y) the date on which the Company pays annual bonuses to other similarly situated employees of the Company; (iii) reimbursement for all appropriate business expenses incurred by the Employee in connection with his or her employment by the Company in accordance with the policies of the Company as in effect from time to time that are incurred but not yet reimbursed to the Employee through the Termination Date; and (iv) in the event of a Qualifying Termination, payment for accrued unused vacation days, payable in accordance with Company policy.

6. Tax Withholding. The Company is authorized to withhold from any benefit provided or payment due hereunder, the amount of withholding taxes due under any federal, state or local authority in respect of such benefit or payment and to take such other action as may be necessary in the opinion of the Board to satisfy all obligations for the payment of such withholding taxes.

7. Restrictions and Obligations of the Employee.

a. Confidentiality.

i. During the course of the Employee's employment by the Company, the Employee has had and will have access to certain trade secrets and confidential information relating to the Company, its parents and/or subsidiaries and/or the Affiliates (as defined below) of the Company, its parents and/or subsidiaries (the "Protected

Parties") which is not readily available from sources outside the Company. For purposes of this Agreement, "Affiliate" means, any entity directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Company and/or its parents and/or subsidiaries, respectively. The confidential and proprietary information and, in any material respect, trade secrets of the Protected Parties are among their most valuable assets, including but not limited to, their customer, supplier and vendor lists, databases, competitive strategies, computer programs, frameworks, or models, their marketing programs, their sales, financial, marketing, training and technical information, their product development (and proprietary product data) and any other information, whether communicated orally, electronically, in writing or in other tangible forms concerning how the Protected Parties create, develop, acquire or maintain their products and, marketing plans, target their potential customers and operate their retail and other businesses. The Protected Parties invested, and continue to invest, considerable amounts of time and money in their process, technology, know-how, obtaining and developing the goodwill of their customers, their other external relationships, their data systems and data bases, and all the information described above (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Confidential Information"), and any misappropriation or unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Information in any form would irreparably harm the Protected Parties. The Employee acknowledges that such Confidential Information constitutes valuable, highly confidential, special and unique property of the Protected Parties. The Employee shall hold in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of the Protected Parties all Confidential Information relating to the Protected Parties and their businesses, which shall have been obtained by the Employee during the Employee's employment by the Company and which shall not be or become public knowledge (other than by acts by the Employee or representatives of the Employee in violation of this Agreement). Except as required by law or an order of a court or governmental agency with jurisdiction, the Employee shall not, during the period the Employee is employed by the Company or at any time thereafter, disclose any Confidential information, directly or indirectly, to any person or entity for any reason or purpose whatsoever, nor shall the Employee use it in any way, except in the course of the Employee's employment with the Company and for the benefit of the Protected Parties or to enforce any rights or defend any claims hereunder or under any other agreement to which the Employee is a party, provided that such disclosure is relevant to the enforcement of such rights or defense of such claims and is only disclosed in the formal proceedings related thereto. The Employee shall take all reasonable steps to safeguard the Confidential information and to protect it against disclosure, misuse, espionage, loss and theft. The Employee understands and agrees that the Employee shall acquire no rights to any such Confidential information.

ii. All files, records, documents, drawings, specifications, data, computer programs, evaluation mechanisms and analytics and similar items relating thereto or to the Protected Parties' businesses, as well as all customer lists, specific customer information, compilations of product research and marketing techniques of the Protected Parties, whether prepared by the Employee or otherwise coming into the Employee's possession, shall remain the exclusive property of the Protected Parties, and the Employee shall not remove any such items from the premises of the Protected Parties, except in furtherance of the Employee's duties.

iii. It is understood that while employed by the Company the Employee will promptly disclose to it, and assign to it the Employee's interest in any invention, improvement or discovery made or conceived by the Employee, either alone or jointly with others, which arises out of the Employee's employment. At the Company's request and expense, the Employee will assist the Protected Parties during the period of the Employee's employment by the Company and thereafter in connection with any controversy or legal proceeding relating to such invention, improvement or discovery and in obtaining domestic and foreign patent or other protection covering the same.

iv. As requested by the Company and at the Company's expense, from time to time and upon the termination of the Employee's employment with the Company for any reason, the Employee will promptly deliver to the Company all copies and embodiments, in whatever form, of all Confidential information in the Employee's possession or within his or her control (including, but not limited to, memoranda, records, notes, plans, photographs, manuals, notebooks, documentation, program

listings, flow charts, magnetic media, disks, diskettes, tapes and all other materials containing any Confidential information) irrespective of the location or form of such material. If requested by the Company, the Employee will provide the Company with written confirmation that all such materials have been delivered to the Company as provided herein.

b. Non-Solicitation or Hire. During the Employee's employment with the Company and for a period of one (1) year following the Employee's termination of employment for any reason, the Employee shall not directly or indirectly solicit or attempt to solicit or induce, directly or indirectly, (i) any party who is a customer of School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries, or who was a customer of School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries at any time during the twelve (12) month period immediately prior to the Termination Date, for the purpose of marketing selling or providing to any such party any services or products offered by or available from School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries (provided that if the Employee intends to solicit any such party for any other purpose, he shall notify the Company of such intention and receive prior written approval from the Company), (ii) any supplier to School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries to terminate, reduce or alter negatively its relationship with School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries or in any manner interfere with any agreement or contract between School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries and such supplier or (iii) any employee of School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries or any person who was an employee of School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries during the twelve (12) month period immediately prior to the date the Employee's employment terminates to terminate such employee's employment relationship with School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries in order, in either case, to enter into a similar relationship with the Employee, or any other person or any entity in competition with the Business of School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries.

c. Non-Competition. During the Employee's employment with the Company and for a period of one (1) year following the Employee's termination of employment for any reason, the Employee shall not, whether individually, as a director, manager, member, stockholder, partner, owner, employee, consultant or agent of any business, or in any other capacity, other than on behalf of School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries, organize, establish, own, operate, manage, control, engage in, participate in, invest in, permit his or her name to be used by, act as a consultant or advisor to, render services for (alone or in association with any person, firm, corporation or business organization), or otherwise assist any person or entity that engages in or owns, invests in, operates, manages or controls any venture or enterprise which engages or proposes to engage in any business conducted by School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries on the Termination Date or within twelve (12) months of the Employee's termination of employment with the Company in the geographic locations where School Bus Holdings Inc. or any of its subsidiaries, respectively engage or propose to engage in such business (the "Business"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement shall prevent the Employee from owning for passive investment purposes not intended to circumvent this Agreement, less than five percent (5%) of the publicly traded common equity securities of any company engaged in the Business (so long as the Employee has no power to manage, operate, advise, consult with or control the competing enterprise and no power, alone or in conjunction with other affiliated parties, to select a director, manager, general partner, or similar governing official of the competing enterprise other than in connection with the normal and customary voting powers afforded the Employee in connection with any permissible equity ownership).

d. Nondisparagement. The Employee shall not at any time (whether during or after the Term) publish or communicate to any person or entity any Disparaging (as defined below) remarks, comments or statements concerning the Company, its parents, subsidiaries and/or Affiliates, and their respective present and former members, partners, directors, officers, shareholders, employees, agents, attorneys, successors and assigns. "Disparaging" remarks, comments or statements are those that impugn the character, honesty, integrity or morality or business acumen or abilities in connection with any aspect of the operation of business of the individual or entity being disparaged.

e. Property. The Employee acknowledges that all originals and copies of materials, records and documents generated by him or coming into his or her possession during his or her employment by the Company are the sole property of the Company ("Company Property"). During the Term, and at all times thereafter, the Employee shall not remove, or cause to be removed, from the premises of the Company or its parents, subsidiaries or Affiliates copies of any record, file, memorandum, document, computer related information or equipment, or any other item relating to the Business, except in furtherance of his or her duties. When the Employee's employment with the Company terminates, or upon request of the Company at any time, the Employee shall promptly deliver to the Company all copies of Company Property in his or her possession or control.

8. Remedies; Specific Performance. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Employee's breach or threatened breach of any of the restrictions set forth in Section 7 will result in irreparable and continuing damage to the Company and its parents, subsidiaries, and, as applicable, the Affiliates of the Company and its parents and subsidiaries, for which there may be no adequate remedy at law and that the Company and its parents and subsidiaries, and, as applicable, the Affiliates of the Company and its parents and subsidiaries, shall be entitled to equitable relief, including specific performance and injunctive relief as remedies for any such breach or threatened or attempted breach. The Employee hereby consents to the grant of an injunction (temporary or otherwise) against the Employee or the entry of any other court order against the Employee prohibiting and enjoining him from violating, or directing him to comply with any provision of Section 7. The Employee also agrees that such remedies shall be in addition to any and all remedies, including damages, available to the Company against him or her for such breaches or threatened or attempted breaches.

9. Severability. If any term, provision, covenant or restriction of this Agreement, or any part thereof, is held by a court of competent jurisdiction of any foreign, federal, state, county or local government or any other governmental, regulatory or administrative agency or authority to be invalid, void, unenforceable or against public policy for any reason, the remainder of the terms, provisions, covenants and restrictions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected or impaired or invalidated. The Employee acknowledges that the restrictive covenants contained in Section 7 are a condition of this Agreement and are reasonable and valid in temporal scope and in all other respects.

10. Judicial Modification. If any court of competent jurisdiction determines that any of the covenants in Section 7, or any part of any of them, is invalid or unenforceable (including, without limitation, because of the geographic or temporal scope of such provision), such covenant or part thereof shall apply to the maximum extent otherwise permitted at applicable law with such modifications as will be necessary to make it valid and enforceable.

11. Miscellaneous

a. No Right to Employment. This Agreement does not create for the Employee any employment right. This Agreement is not a contract of employment and does not alter the employment at-will relationship. Either Party may terminate the employment relationship at any time for any reason.

- b. Entire Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, written or oral, with respect thereto.
- c. Waiver and Amendments. This Agreement may be amended, modified, superseded, canceled, renewed or extended, and the terms and conditions hereof may be waived, only by a written instrument signed by the Parties or, in the case of a waiver, by the Party waiving compliance. No delay on the part of any Party in exercising any right, power or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any waiver on the part of any right, power or privilege hereunder, nor any single or partial exercise of any right, power or privilege hereunder, preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, power or privilege hereunder
- d. Notices. Any notice or other communication required or which may be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally, telegraphed, telexed, sent by facsimile transmission or sent by certified, registered or express mail, postage prepaid or overnight mail and shall be deemed given when so delivered personally, telegraphed, telexed, or sent by facsimile transmission or, if mailed, four (4) days after the date of mailing or one (1) day after overnight mail, as follows:
- i. If the Company, to: Blue Bird Corporation
402 Blue Bird Boulevard
Fort Valley, GA 31030
Attention: Mike McCurdy
Telephone: (478) 822-2008
Fax: (478) 822-2427
 - ii. If the Employee, to the Employee's home address reflected in the Company's records.
- e. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia applicable to agreements made and not to be performed entirely 'within such state, without regard to conflicts of laws principles.
- f. Dispute Resolution and Venue. The Parties agree irrevocably to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal courts or, if no federal jurisdiction exists, the state courts, located in Macon, Georgia, for the purposes of any suit, action or other proceeding brought by any Party arising out of any breach of any of the provisions of this Agreement and hereby waive, and agree not to assert by way of motion, as a defense or otherwise, in any such suit, action, or proceeding, any claim that it is not personally subject to the jurisdiction of the above-named courts, that the suit, action or proceeding is brought in an inconvenient forum, that the venue of the suit, action or proceeding is improper, or that the provisions of this Agreement may not be enforced in or by such courts. In addition, the Parties agree to the waiver of a jury trial.
- g. Assignability by the Company and the Employee. This Agreement, and the rights and obligations hereunder, may not be assigned by the Company or the Employee without written consent signed by the other Party; provided that the Company may assign the Agreement to any successor that continues the business of the Company.
- h. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.
- i. Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not limit or otherwise affect the meaning of terms contained herein.
- j. Survival Sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of this Agreement shall survive after the Term.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto, intending to be legally bound hereby, have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above mentioned.

EMPLOYEE

/s/ Mark Terry

Mark Terry

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION

By: /s/Mike McCurdy

Name: Mike McCurdy

Title: VP Human Resources / External Affairs

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Section 3: EX-10.20 (EXHIBIT 10.20)

Exhibit 10.20



October 19, 2015

Mr. Tom Roberts
409 Woodlawn Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022

Dear Tom,

Blue Bird Corporation extends the following offer of employment. This letter sets forth the full agreement between yourself and the Blue Bird Corporation with respect to this opportunity.

Your Position

We would like you to offer you the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), reporting to Phil Horlock, President/CEO, and to have the responsibilities and duties of that position.

Your Base Salary

Your base salary will be \$300,000 annually. It will be payable on the 10th and 25th of each month.

Management Incentive Bonus Plan

You will also be eligible for participation in the Blue Bird Management Incentive Bonus Plan (FY2016). This "Bonus" is based on the Company meeting certain financial objectives involving EBITDA and Net Debt Improvement. Your participation level will be at one-hundred percent (100%) of

your base salary.

Withholding

All pay, incentives and other compensation shall be subject to applicable withholdings for federal, state and local taxes and shall be payable in accordance with the Company's regular payroll policies.

Your Benefits

While employed by the Company, you will be entitled to participate in all benefit plans in which employees of the Company are generally eligible to participate within the terms of those plans.

At the date of employment, eligibility for the benefit program is available. This package includes:

- Company Life insurance and AD&D are administered by Metlife;
 - Blue Bird will provide you with three times your annual salary in life coverage (maximum \$1M). You may elect to take additional optional life insurance for you, your spouse and children (if applicable).
- Salaried Short-Term disability (self-administrated)
 - Blue Bird will provide regular payroll for 180 days
- Executive Supplemental Long-Term Disability program (after 180 days) provided through Unum
 - Blue Bird will provide individual disability plan which pays 75% of base with monthly maximum of \$10,000 benefit to Age 67
- 401k Retirement Savings program administered through MassMutual. Following 90 days of continuous employment, the company will match 50% of your contribution to 6%.
- At your specific request, this offer does not include company-sponsored healthcare coverage.

Expense Reimbursement

The employee shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for all appropriate traveling and other business expenses incurred by him/her in connection with his/her duties under this Agreement, in accordance with the policies of the Company as in effect from time to time.

Relocation

There will be a relocation benefit provided with this opportunity. The benefit will be administered through Vision Relocation and will include a six (6) month corporate living benefit provided upon the date of employment. The corporate living residence will be located in Macon, Georgia. Travel to Georgia will be covered under the business and travel policy.

Car Allowance

You shall be entitled to a monthly car allowance of \$600 to be paid in semi-monthly installments.

Paid Time Off

You shall be entitled to four (4) weeks' vacation and two (2) attendance days of paid time off annually. One (1) week of vacation will be allotted to the Christmas Shutdown in December. The carry-over and accrual of paid time off days shall be in accordance with Company policy. For 2015, you will be eligible for one (1) week of vacation to be used in December.

Employment at Will

Notwithstanding anything in this Letter Agreement to the contrary, your employment by the Company will be at will and may be terminated by the Company at any time, subject to the company's generally applicable employment policies.

Your Start Date

Unless otherwise agreed upon, it is anticipated your start date will be November 2, 2015.

Severance Agreement

Notwithstanding anything in this Letter Agreement to the contrary, your employment by the Company will be at will and may be terminated by the Company at any time, subject to the company's generally applicable employment policies. In the event of a non-voluntary termination of employment without cause, there will be a twelve month severance period provided.

Amendment or Termination of Plans or Practices

The Company continues to reserve the right to modify, amend or terminate any of the employee benefit plans or practices described in these materials. In all cases, the plan rules are the exclusive source for determining rights and benefits under a benefit or compensation plan and those plans shall govern if there is conflict with these materials.

E-Verify

As a federal contractor, we are required to verify the eligibility of all new hires to the Department of Homeland Security utilizing the E-Verify website. As such, you will be required to provide to the Company documentary evidence of your identity and eligibility for employment in the United States. Such documentation must be provided to us within three (3) business days from your date of hire, or our employment relationship with you may be terminated. If you are unsure what documents are acceptable, please contact me prior to your start date for the current list.

Disclosure, Confidentiality, Non-Compete, Non-Solicitation

We also ask that, if you have not already done so, you disclose to the Company any and all agreements relating to your prior employment that may affect your eligibility to be employed by the Company or limit the manner in which you may be employed. It is the Company's understanding that any such agreements will not prevent you from performing the duties of your position and you represent that such is the case. Moreover, you agree that, during the term of your employment with the Company, you will not engage in any other employment, occupation, consulting or other business activity directly related to the business in which the Company is now involved or becomes involved during the term of your employment, nor will you engage in any other activities that conflict with your obligations to the Company. Similarly, you agree not to bring any third party confidential information to the Company, including that of your former employer, and that in performing your duties for the Company you will not in any way utilize any such information.

As a condition of your employment, you are also required to sign and return the following documents prior to your first day of employment:

- At-Will Employment
- Confidentiality, Non-Compete, Non-Solicitation
- Relocation Agreement
- Severance Agreement

We look forward to welcoming you at Blue Bird. To accept this job offer, please sign and date where indicated below and also sign and date each of the required documents that are attached.

<i>/s/ Tom Roberts</i> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Tom Roberts	10/28/2015 <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Date
---	--

Sincerely,

/s/ Mike McCurdy

Mike McCurdy
 Vice President Human Resources/External Affairs
 Blue Bird Corporation

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Section 4: EX-10.21 (EXHIBIT 10.21)

EXECUTION COPY

SECURITIES PURCHASE AGREEMENT

THIS SECURITIES PURCHASE AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of September 23, 2017 by and between COLISEUM CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("CCP"), COLISEUM CAPITAL PARTNERS II, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("CCP II"), BLACKWELL PARTNERS, LLC - SERIES A, a Delaware limited liability company ("Blackwell"), and COLISEUM SCHOOL BUS HOLDINGS, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("School Bus Holdings") and, together with CCP, CCP II, and Blackwell, the "Sellers" and each, individually, a "Seller", and BLUE BIRD CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation (the "Company").

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the Sellers are the owners of the shares of Common Stock, Preferred Stock and Warrants (each as defined in Section 6 of this Agreement) set forth on Annex A hereto (such shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock and the Warrants being collectively referred to herein as the “Transaction Securities”); and

WHEREAS, the Sellers desires to sell to the Company, and the Company desires to purchase from the Sellers, the Transaction Securities.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises, the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

Section 1. Purchase and Sale of Transaction Securities.

(a) Purchase and Sale. Each Seller hereby sells, conveys, assigns and delivers to the Company at the Closing (as defined below), free and clear of all Encumbrances and Transfer Restrictions (each as defined in Section 6 of this Agreement), other than Transfer Restrictions under applicable securities laws or as may be contained in the documents issuing such securities to such Seller, and the Company hereby purchases, acquires and accepts from each Seller at the Closing, the Transaction Securities, together with all rights to receive dividends, interest or other amounts with respect to the Transaction Securities and all other rights relating thereto (the “Transaction”).

(b) Closing. The closing of the Transaction (the “Closing”) shall take place on a date to be determined by the Company (in its sole discretion), but no later than the third (3rd) Business Day immediately following the date hereof (the “Closing Date”) at the offices of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10153. The Company shall notify each Seller of the date of the Closing as promptly as practicable.

(c) Purchase Price. At the Closing, (i) the Company shall pay, or cause to be paid, to each Seller, an aggregate amount in cash as set forth opposite such Seller’s name on Annex A (the “Purchase Price”), and (ii) each such Seller shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the Company, the Transaction Securities, such delivery to be effected in accordance with Section 5(a) of this Agreement.

Section 2. Representations and Warranties of the Seller. Each Seller hereby represents and warrants to the Company on the date hereof and as of the Closing Date as follows:

(a) Capacity; Due Authorization and Execution; Enforceability. Each such Seller has the power and capacity to enter into this Agreement and to consummate the Transaction. The execution, delivery, and performance by such Seller of this Agreement and the consummation by such Seller of its obligations

hereunder have been duly authorized by all necessary action by such Seller. This Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by each Seller and constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligation of such Seller, enforceable in accordance with its terms, except as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, moratorium, reorganization or similar laws from time to time in effect that affect creditors' rights generally, and by legal and equitable limitations on the availability of specific remedies. Any person signing this Agreement on behalf of such Seller has been duly and validly authorized and empowered to do so and has the authority to bind such Seller and to effectuate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(b) *No Contravention; No Conflict.* The execution, delivery and performance by such Seller of this Agreement and consummation by such Seller of the Transaction do not and will not (i) violate any decree or judgment of any court or other governmental authority applicable to or binding on such Seller or its affiliates, (ii) violate any provision of any statute, rule or regulation applicable to such Seller or its affiliates, (iii) conflict with, or result in any violation of, any provision of any organizational document of such Seller or (iv) violate or result in a default under any material contract to which such Seller, its affiliates or any of their respective assets or properties are bound. No consent or approval of, or filing by such Seller with, any governmental authority or other person not a party hereto is required for the execution, delivery and performance by such Seller of this Agreement or the consummation of the Transaction by such Seller, other than routine securities law filings.

(c) *Beneficial Ownership; No Encumbrances; Transfer Restrictions.* Each Seller is the sole record and beneficial owner of the Transaction Securities set forth opposite its name on Annex A hereto, free and clear of any Encumbrances, and upon the transfer of the Transaction Securities to the Company, the Company shall acquire good title thereto, free and clear of any Encumbrances or Transfer Restrictions, other than Transfer Restrictions arising solely under applicable securities laws or as may be contained in the documents issuing such securities to such Seller. The Transaction Securities constitute 100% of the Common Stock, Preferred Stock and Warrants owned by each Seller and managed by Coliseum Capital Management, LLC ("CCM") pursuant to an investment management agreement. CCM and its affiliates do not own or manage any accounts that own any other securities convertible into, or rights to acquire, any Transaction Securities.

(d) *Information.* Each Seller acknowledges that the Company, at the time of the Transaction, possesses a significant amount of Information not known to the Seller. Each Seller acknowledges that it has not requested the Company to disclose, and the Company has not disclosed, such Information to such Seller. Such Information, if known, might affect such Seller's decision to enter into this Agreement and perform its terms, and/or the price at which such Seller would be willing to sell the Transaction Securities.

(e) *Seller's Information and Investment Experience and Sophistication.* Each Seller, by reason of, among other things, the Seller's business, investment and financial experience and sophistication, acknowledges that it is capable of evaluating the merits and risks of the Transaction and of protecting its own interests in connection with the Transaction. Each Seller is an experienced and sophisticated purchaser and seller of securities of various types and kinds, including but not limited to securities similar to and/or identical to the Transaction Securities.

(f) *Required Protections.* Each Seller wishes to enter into the Transaction for such Seller's own business and investment purposes. Each Seller acknowledges that the Company would not enter into the Transaction with such Seller in the absence of the protections afforded to the Company by the Seller's representations, warranties and agreements set forth in this Section 2 and the releases and waivers set forth in this Section 2 and elsewhere in this Agreement, and that such Seller is providing such representations, warranties, agreements, releases and waivers contained in this Agreement as a material and necessary inducement to the Company to consummate the Transaction (without which the Company would not consummate the Transaction).

(g) *Independent Evaluation; Big-Boy Representations.* Each Seller has conducted an independent evaluation of the Transaction Securities to determine whether to engage in the Transaction and has advised the Company that it intends to base its determination to proceed solely on publicly available information,

even if there is a material discrepancy between publicly available information and Information. Each Seller is voluntarily assuming all risks associated with any Information and expressly warrants and represents that (x) such Seller disclaims the existence of or its reliance on, any representation by the Company concerning any Information and (y) such Seller is not relying on any disclosure or non-disclosure made or not made, or the completeness thereof, in connection with or arising out of the sale of the Transaction Securities, and therefore has no claims against the Company with respect thereto. If any such claim may exist, such Seller, recognizing its disclaimer of reliance and the Company's reliance on such disclaimer as a condition to entering into this Agreement, covenants and agrees not to assert any such claim (and hereby waives any such claim) against the Company or any of the Company's officers, directors, shareholders, partners, representatives, agents or affiliates. Each Seller further represents and acknowledges that: (i) it is an accredited investor (as defined in Rule 501(a) of Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933), with sufficient knowledge and experience in transactions comparable to the Transaction to evaluate the merits and risks of this Agreement; (ii) it is selling the Transaction Securities solely for its own account; and (iii) the Company is relying upon such acknowledgements and representations as a condition to entering into this Agreement.

(h) *Review with Counsel and Other Advisors.* Each Seller has had the opportunity to consult with such Seller's own counsel and financial and other advisors with respect to this Agreement, the terms hereof and the transactions to be consummated hereunder and has executed and delivered this Agreement freely and voluntarily.

(i) *Sole Representations or Warranties.* Each Seller acknowledges that the Company is not making any representations or warranties to such Seller, and such Seller is not relying on any statements, whether oral or written, which may have been made at any time by the Company or on the Company's behalf, except for those representations and warranties of the Company expressly set forth in Section 3 of this Agreement.

Section 3. *Representations, Warranties and Agreements of the Company.* The Company hereby represents and warrants to each Seller on the date hereof and as of the Closing Date as follows:

(a) *Capacity; Due Authorization and Execution; Enforceability.* The Company has the power and capacity to enter into this Agreement and to consummate the Transaction. The execution, delivery, and performance by the Company of this Agreement and the consummation by the Company of its obligations hereunder have been duly authorized by all necessary action by the Company. This Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by the Company and constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable in accordance with its terms, except as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, moratorium, reorganization or similar laws from time to time in effect that affect creditors' rights generally, and by legal and equitable limitations on the availability of specific remedies. Any person signing this Agreement on behalf of the Company has been duly and validly authorized and empowered to do so and has the authority to bind the Company, as the case may be, and to effectuate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(b) *No Contravention; No Conflict.* The execution, delivery and performance by the Company of this Agreement and consummation by the Company of the Transaction do not and will not (i) violate any decree or judgment of any court or other governmental authority applicable to or binding on the Company, (ii) violate any provision of any statute, rule or regulation which is applicable to the Company, (iii) conflict with, or result in any violation of, any provision of any organizational document of the Company or (iv) violate or result in a default under any material contract to which the Company or any of the Company's assets or properties are bound. No consent or approval of, or filing by the Company with, any governmental authority or other person not a party hereto is required for the execution, delivery and performance by the Company of this Agreement or the consummation of the Transaction by the Company.

(c) *No Other Rights.* No holder of any equity interest in the Company is entitled to any "right of first offer," "right of first refusal," "drag along," "tag along" or analogous rights in connection with the Transaction pursuant to an agreement with the Company. No "fair price," "interested stockholder," "business

combination”, “control share acquisition” or other anti-takeover provision of the certificate of incorporation or bylaws of the Company, or of any statute, rule or regulation, is applicable to the Transaction.

(d) *Broker.* No broker, finder or investment banker is entitled to any brokerage, finder’s or other fee or commission in connection with the Transaction based upon arrangements made by or on behalf of the Company.

(e) *Independent Evaluation and Reliance.* Other than for the representations and warranties of each Seller in Section 2, the Company is not relying in any respect on, and neither the Sellers nor any affiliate of any Seller shall have liability to the Company or its affiliates with respect to, any representation, warranty or statement, whether oral, express or implied, made or provided by any of the Sellers or their respective affiliates in entering into this Agreement or in consummating any of the transactions contemplated hereby.

Section 4. Covenants.

(a) *Transfer of the Transaction Securities.* Each Seller shall provide to the Company prior to Closing all customary documentation required or requested by the Company to effect the transfer of the Transaction Securities on the books of the Company, including as set forth in Section 5 below. In the event that after the Closing any additional agreements, instruments or other actions are required in the reasonable opinion of any of the parties hereto or any other person or entity in order to effectuate the intent and purposes of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby, the parties hereto shall prepare, execute and deliver such additional agreements and other instruments in mutually acceptable form, and take such other further actions as may be required to carry out the provisions of this Agreement and consummate and make effective the transactions contemplated hereby.

(b) *Registration Rights Agreement.* Effective upon the Closing Date, each Seller hereby waives any and all rights that the Seller or any Seller Investor may have under that certain registration rights agreement, dated February 24, 2015, by and among Coliseum School Bus Holdings, LLC, Coliseum Capital Partners, L.P., Blackwell Partners, LLC - Series A and Coliseum Capital Partners II, L.P., the Company and the other parties named therein.

(c) *Waiver of Board Right.* Effective upon the Closing Date, each Seller hereby waives any and all rights that such Seller may have under that certain letter agreement, dated as of February 18, 2015, by and among The Traxis Group B.V. and the Sellers, including any right to appoint a representative to the board of directors of the Company (the “Board”).

Section 5. Deliveries and Payments.

(a) *Deliveries by the Sellers.* In making the delivery of the Transaction Securities contemplated by Section 1(c) of this Agreement, at the Closing (i) each Seller shall take such action (with the cooperation of the Company) as may be required to cause the shares of Common Stock, Preferred Stock and Warrants to be delivered to the Company, (ii) the Company shall cause its transfer agent to reflect the Company’s receipt of the Transaction Securities, and (iii) the Sellers shall deliver to the Company a duly executed letter of resignation by Mr. Adam Gray from the Board, any committees of the Board and any similar position held in any subsidiary of the Company.

(b) *Payment by the Company.* In making the payment contemplated by Section 1(c) of this Agreement, at the Closing the Company shall pay or cause to be paid, against the delivery of the Transaction Securities, the Purchase Price by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the account designated by the Sellers on Annex A hereto.

Section 6. Certain Definitions. When used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

“Common Stock” means the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share.

“Encumbrance” means any pledge, hypothecation, assignment, lien, stock legend, restriction, charge, claim, security interest, option, right of first refusal, preference, priority or other preferential arrangement of any kind or nature whatsoever.

“Information” means information regarding the Transaction Securities and the business, assets, liabilities, results of operations, management, financial projections, financial condition, and other aspects of the Company and/or its affiliates.

“Preferred Stock” means the Company’s 7.625% Series A Convertible Cumulative Preferred Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, of the Company, issued pursuant to the Company’s Second Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, dated as of February 24, 2015.

“Transfer Restriction” means, with respect to any security or other property, any condition to or restriction on the ability of the holder thereof to sell, assign or otherwise transfer such security or other property or to enforce the provisions thereof or of any document related thereto, whether set forth in such security or other property itself or in any document related thereto or arising by operation of law, including, without limitation, such conditions or restrictions arising under federal, state or foreign laws or under any contracts, arrangements or agreements.

“Warrants” means the Company’s warrants to acquire Common Stock issued pursuant to that certain Warrant Agreement, dated as of January 16, 2014, between Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company and the Company.

Section 7. Entire Agreement; Amendment and Modification. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and, except as otherwise expressly agreed contemporaneously with the execution of this Agreement, supersedes any prior agreements between the parties, written or oral. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a writing signed by the parties hereto.

Section 8. Governing Law; Jurisdiction and Venue. This Agreement is made under and shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York without giving effect to the principles of conflicts of laws or choice of laws thereof. The parties hereto expressly agree that, with respect to any dispute, litigation or other matter relating to or arising out of the relationships contemplated by this Agreement, exclusive jurisdiction and venue thereof shall be in the Federal Court of the United States located in the Southern District of New York.

Section 9. Waiver of Jury Trial. EACH OF THE PARTIES HERETO HEREBY WAIVES ANY RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LAWSUIT, PROCEEDING OR ACTION TO ENFORCE OR DEFEND ANY RIGHT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY AMENDMENT, INSTRUMENT, DOCUMENT OR AGREEMENT DELIVERED OR TO BE DELIVERED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREES THAT ANY LAWSUIT, PROCEEDING OR ACTION WILL BE TRIED BEFORE A JUDGE AND NOT BEFORE A JURY.

Section 10. Assignment; Binding Effect. No party hereto may transfer, sell, encumber, appoint agents with respect to, or assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the other parties to this Agreement. Without limiting any other rights or remedies of the parties, any assignment by a party in violation of the foregoing shall be of no force and effect and void *ab initio*. Without limiting any of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and any permitted assigns.

Section 11. Counterparts; Signatures. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Signatures on this Agreement may be conveyed by electronic transmission and shall be binding upon the parties so transmitting their signatures. Counterparts with original signatures shall be provided to the other parties following the applicable electronic transmission; provided, however, that failure to provide the original counterpart shall have no effect on the validity or the binding nature of this Agreement.

Section 12. No Strict Construction. This Agreement has been jointly drafted by the parties hereto, after negotiations and consultations with their respective counsel. This Agreement shall not be construed more strictly against one party than against the other party.

Section 13. Schedule 13D Amendment; Other Public Announcements. The Sellers agree that they shall, promptly after the execution of this Agreement, file an amendment to their Schedule 13D in order to disclose the Transaction. The Seller will provide to the Company for its review, at least one (1) business day prior to the filing of such amendment to its Schedule 13D, a draft copy of such amendment and will consider in good faith any comments provided by the Company to such draft amendment. Without the prior written consent of the other party, no party to this Agreement shall, directly or indirectly, make or cause to be made, any press release, filing or other public disclosure relating to the Transaction or this Agreement, provided, however, that a party may disclose such information if required by applicable law, regulation or legally binding request by any regulatory authority, after consultation with the other parties and after being advised by its outside legal counsel that such disclosure is so legally required; and provided, further, that in such event the disclosing party shall, except to the extent advance notice of such disclosure would cause the disclosing party to violate applicable law or regulation, provide advance notice of such disclosure to the other parties together with a copy of the anticipated disclosure (or such portions thereof that relate to the other party or to the terms of this Agreement) and give the other party the opportunity to reasonably comment on such portions of the disclosure.

Section 14. Several Obligations. The representations, warranties and agreements of the Sellers hereunder are several and not joint.

Section 15. Survival of Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties set forth in this Agreement shall survive in full force and effect indefinitely.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed and delivered as of the date first above written.

COLISEUM CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.P.
COLISEUM CAPITAL PARTNERS II, L.P.
By: Coliseum Capital, LLC, its general partner

By: /s/ Adam Gray
Name: Adam Gray
Title: Manager

COLISEUM SCHOOL BUS HOLDINGS, LLC
By: Coliseum Capital Management, LLC, its Manager

By: /s/ Adam Gray
Name: Adam Gray
Title: Manager

BLACKWELL PARTNERS, LLC - SERIES A
By: Coliseum Capital Management, LLC, Attorney-in-Fact

By: /s/ Adam Gray
Name: Adam Gray
Title: Manager

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION

By: /s/ P. Tighe
Name: P. Tighe
Title: CFO

ANNEX A

Sellers/Purchase Price/Wire Instructions

Seller	Transaction Securities Owned	Purchase Price	Wire Instructions
Coliseum School Bus Holdings, LLC	100,000 shares of Preferred Stock	\$ 16,434,587.45	Bank: Connecticut Community Bank, N.A. ABA#: 021113251 Account name: Coliseum School Bus Holdings, LLC Account #: 1346204
Coliseum Capital Partners, L.P.	625,923 shares of Common Stock 310,505 Warrants	\$ 12,783,519.33	Chase Manhattan Bank, NY ABA# 021-000-021 F/A/O Goldman Sachs & Co, NY A/C# 930-1-011483 F/F/C Coliseum Capital Partners, LP A/C# 002-34086-7
Coliseum Capital Partners II, L.P.	24,951 shares of Common Stock 85,790 Warrants	\$ 772,035.40	Chase Manhattan Bank, NY ABA# 021-000-021 F/A/O Goldman Sachs & Co, NY A/C# 066642426 F/F/C Coliseum Capital Partners II, LP A/C# 002-50879-4
Blackwell Partners, LLC - Series A	91,692 shares of Common Stock 115,705 Warrants	\$ 2,123,701.18	Chase Manhattan Bank, NY ABA# 021-000-021 F/A/O Goldman Sachs & Co, NY A/C# 930-1-011483 F/F/C Blackwell Partners, LLC, Series A A/C# 002407583

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Section 5: EX-21.1 (EXHIBIT 21.1)

Exhibit 21.1

<u>Subsidiaries that are 100% owned</u>	<u>Organized under the laws of:</u>
School Bus Holdings Inc.	Delaware
Peach County Holdings Inc.	Delaware
Blue Bird Global Corporation	Delaware
Blue Bird Body Co.	Georgia
Canadian Blue Bird Coach, Ltd.	Canada
<u>Subsidiaries that are 50% owned</u>	
Micro Bird Holdings, Inc.	Canada
Corporation Micro Bird Inc.	Canada
Micro Bird USA Corporation	New York

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Section 6: EX-23.1 (EXHIBIT 23.1)

Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S3 (No. 333-206831 and No. 333-202801) and Form S-8 (No. 333-207420 and 333-204514) of Blue Bird Corporation of our report dated December 8, 2017, relating to the consolidated financial statements, and financial statement supplemental schedule, which appears in this Form 10-K.

/s/ BDO USA, LLP

Atlanta, Georgia

December 8, 2017

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Section 7: EX-23.2 (EXHIBIT 23.2)

Exhibit 23.2

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-3 (No. 333-206831, No. 333-202801) and Form S-8 (No. 333-207420, No. 333-204514) of Blue Bird Corporation of our report dated December 15, 2015, except for the effects of the revision discussed in Note 14 (not presented herein) to the consolidated financial statements appearing under Item 8 of the Company's 2016 annual report on Form 10-K, as to which the date is December 15, 2016, relating to the financial statements and financial statement schedule, which appear in this Form 10-K.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

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Section 8: EX-31.1 (EXHIBIT 31.1)

Exhibit 31.1

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PURSUANT TO SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT RULES 13a-14(a) AND 15d-14(a)
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Philip Horlock, the Chief Executive Officer of Blue Bird Corporation (the “registrant”), certify that:

- (1) I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Blue Bird Corporation;
- (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 most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) 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 the 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.

Dated: December 8, 2017

By: /s/ Philip Horlock

Philip Horlock

President and Chief Executive Officer

(principal executive officer)

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Section 9: EX-31.2 (EXHIBIT 31.2)

Exhibit 31.2

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER
PURSUANT TO SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT RULES 13a-14(a) AND 15d-14(a)
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Phillip Tighe, the Chief Financial Officer of Blue Bird Corporation (the “registrant”), certify that:

- (1) I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Blue Bird Corporation;
- (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 most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) 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 the 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.

Dated: December 8, 2017

By: /s/ Phillip Tighe

Phillip Tighe

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Section 10: EX-32.1 (EXHIBIT 32.1)

Exhibit 32.1

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Blue Bird Corporation (the “*Company*”) on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, as filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “*Report*”), I, Philip Horlock, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, do hereby certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to such officer's knowledge:

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

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the SEC or its staff upon request.

Dated: December 8, 2017

By: /s/ Philip Horlock

Philip Horlock

President and Chief Executive Officer

(principal executive officer)

This certification accompanies the Report pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and shall not be deemed filed by the Company for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. This certification shall also not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates it by reference.

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Section 11: EX-32.2 (EXHIBIT 32.2)

Exhibit 32.2

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350**

**AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Blue Bird Corporation (the “*Company*”) on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, as filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “*Report*”), I, Phillip Tighe, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, do hereby certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to such officer's knowledge:

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

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the SEC or its staff upon request.

Dated: December 8, 2017

By: /s/ Phillip Tighe

Phillip Tighe

Chief Financial Officer

(principal financial officer)

This certification accompanies the Report pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and shall not be deemed filed by the Company for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. This certification shall also not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates it by reference.

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