

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC
Form 10-Q
October 25, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2018

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 001-16131

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

04-2693383

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1241 East Main Street

Stamford, CT 06902

(203) 352-8600

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form 10-Q

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code,
of Registrant's principal executive offices)

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 every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company Emerging growth company

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 October 23, 2018 the number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Class A common stock, par value \$.01 per share, was 43,415,411 and the number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Class B common stock, par value \$.01 per share, was 34,609,438.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page #
<u>Part I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u>	2
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017</u>	2
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017</u>	4
<u>Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018</u>	5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017</u>	6
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	7
<u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	32
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	47
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	47
<u>Part II – OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	48
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	49
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	49
<u>Signatures</u>	50

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net revenues	\$ 188,391	\$ 186,325	\$ 657,654	\$ 589,355
Operating expenses	120,797	111,804	439,749	401,222
Marketing and selling expenses	23,507	18,197	73,100	60,325
General and administrative expenses	20,055	15,909	64,655	59,464
Depreciation and amortization	5,905	6,435	19,059	19,680
Operating income	18,127	33,980	61,091	48,664
Interest expense	3,581	3,569	11,828	10,734
Other income, net	3,446	742	3,285	2,386
Income before income taxes	17,992	31,153	52,548	40,316
(Benefit from) provision for income taxes	(15,598)	9,299	(5,822)	12,489
Net income	\$ 33,590	\$ 21,854	\$ 58,370	\$ 27,827
Earnings per share: basic	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.36
Earnings per share: diluted	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.36
Weighted average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	77,808	76,957	77,371	76,620
Diluted	90,760	78,505	87,944	78,383
Dividends declared per common share (Class A and B)	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.36

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income	\$ 33,590	\$ 21,854	\$ 58,370	\$ 27,827
Other comprehensive income (loss):				
Foreign currency translation adjustments	53	35	(311)	112
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on available-for-sale debt securities (net of tax expense (benefit) of \$15 and \$(29), and \$(186) and \$(66), respectively)	48	(46)	(590)	(107)
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	101	(11)	(901)	5
Comprehensive income	\$ 33,691	\$ 21,843	\$ 57,469	\$ 27,832

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

	As of September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 126,117	\$ 137,700
Short-term investments, net	189,472	159,744
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts and returns of \$1,613 and \$3,035, respectively)	84,367	65,245
Inventory	8,910	8,332
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	40,019	19,961
Total current assets	448,885	390,982
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	135,525	131,325
FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION ASSETS, NET	17,251	22,300
TELEVISION PRODUCTION ASSETS, NET	6,295	7,292
INVESTMENT SECURITIES	27,593	27,367
NON-CURRENT DEFERRED INCOME TAX ASSETS	18,803	18,984
OTHER ASSETS, NET	10,904	16,257
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 665,256	\$ 614,507
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 5,088	\$ 4,638
Convertible debt	181,754	—
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	94,508	77,738
Deferred income	75,912	55,818
Total current liabilities	357,262	138,194
LONG-TERM DEBT	26,984	30,958
CONVERTIBLE DEBT	—	177,900
OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,752	14,496
Total liabilities	385,998	361,548
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
	434	425

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form 10-Q

Class A common stock: (\$.01 par value; 180,000,000 shares authorized;
43,411,787 and 42,498,452 shares issued and outstanding as of
September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively)

Class B convertible common stock: (\$.01 par value; 60,000,000 shares authorized;
34,609,438 and 34,609,438 shares issued and outstanding as of
September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively)

Additional paid-in capital	346	346
Accumulated other comprehensive income	410,186	422,208
Accumulated deficit	1,470	2,371
Total stockholders' equity	(133,178)	(172,391)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	279,258	252,959
	\$ 665,256	\$ 614,507

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Common Stock		Class B		Additional	Accumulated	Other	Accumulated	
	Class A	Amount	Shares	Amount	Paid - in	Comprehensive	Income	Deficit	Total
	Shares				Capital				
Balance, December 31, 2017	42,498	\$ 425	34,609	\$ 346	\$ 422,208	\$ 2,371	\$ (172,391)		\$ 252,959
Cumulative effect of adopting ASC 606	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,086		10,086
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	—	58,370		58,370
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	(901)	—		(901)
Stock issuances, net	914	9	—	—	1,765	—	—		1,774
Taxes paid related to net settlement upon vesting of equity awards	—	—	—	—	(50,720)	—	—		(50,720)
Cash dividends declared	—	—	—	—	1,363	—	(29,243)		(27,880)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	—	—	34,308	—	—		34,308
Other	—	—	—	—	1,262	—	—		1,262
Balance, September 30, 2018	43,412	\$ 434	34,609	\$ 346	\$ 410,186	\$ 1,470	\$ (133,178)		\$ 279,258

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$ 58,370	\$ 27,827
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Amortization and impairments of feature film production assets	5,856	9,065
Amortization of television production assets	20,534	13,633
Depreciation and amortization	24,091	24,281
Loss on equity investments, net	819	—
Services provided in exchange for equity instruments	(2,264)	(2,090)
Other amortization	4,667	4,758
Stock-based compensation	34,308	17,962
(Benefit from) provision for deferred income taxes	(2,750)	4,516
Other non-cash adjustments	1,879	383
Cash (used in)/provided by changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(8,219)	(19,030)
Inventory	(578)	(1,948)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(20,354)	(8,813)
Feature film production assets	(870)	(9,643)
Television production assets	(20,266)	(12,472)
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	9,059	(5,851)
Deferred income	17,199	(1,615)
Net cash provided by operating activities	121,481	40,963
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of property and equipment and other assets	(21,445)	(17,652)
Purchases of short-term investments	(82,064)	(123,806)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of short-term investments	50,833	23,990
Purchase of investment securities	(1,038)	(2,116)
Other	1,000	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(52,714)	(119,584)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Repayment of long-term debt	(3,524)	(3,718)

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form 10-Q

Dividends paid	(27,880)	(27,601)
Proceeds from borrowings under credit facilities	—	1,383
Proceeds from borrowings on convertible notes, net of issuance costs	—	14,534
Proceeds from issuance of warrants	—	1,460
Purchase of convertible note hedge	—	(2,558)
Taxes paid related to net settlement upon vesting of equity awards	(50,720)	(9,185)
Proceeds from issuance of stock	1,774	1,493
Net cash used in financing activities	(80,350)	(24,192)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(11,583)	(102,813)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	137,700	211,976
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	\$ 126,117	\$ 109,163
NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING TRANSACTIONS:		
Purchases of property and equipment recorded in accounts payable and accrued expenses (See Note 12)	\$ 5,577	\$ 4,648

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation and Business Description

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of WWE. “WWE” refers to World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. and its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires. References to “we,” “us,” “our” and the “Company” refer to WWE. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires our management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements are unaudited. All adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary for a fair presentation of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows at the dates and for the periods presented have been included. The results of operations of any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for the full year. All intercompany balances are eliminated in consolidation.

Certain information and note disclosures normally included in annual financial statements have been condensed or omitted from these interim financial statements; these financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

We are an integrated media and entertainment company, principally engaged in the production and distribution of content through various channels, including our premium over-the-top WWE Network, content rights agreements, pay-per-view event programming, filmed entertainment, live events, licensing of various WWE themed products, and the sale of consumer products featuring our brands. Our operations are organized around the following principal activities:

Media:

- The Media segment reflects the production and monetization of long-form and short-form video content across various platforms, including WWE Network, pay television, digital and social media, as well as filmed entertainment. Across these platforms, revenues principally consist of content rights fees, subscriptions to WWE Network, and advertising and sponsorships.

Live Events:

- Live events provide ongoing content for our media platforms. Live Event segment revenues consist primarily of ticket sales, including primary and secondary distribution, as well as the sale of travel packages associated with the Company’s global live events.

Consumer Products:

- The Consumer Products segment engages in the merchandising of WWE branded products, such as video games, toys and apparel, through licensing arrangements and direct-to-consumer sales. Revenues principally consist of royalties and licensee fees related to WWE branded products, and sales of merchandise distributed at our live events and through eCommerce platforms.

In our prior reports filed with the Securities Exchange Commission ("SEC") through fiscal year 2017, we presented ten reportable segments consisting of Network, Television, Home Entertainment, Digital Media, Live Events, Licensing, Venue Merchandise, WWEShop, WWE Studios and Corporate and Other. Effective January 1, 2018, we present three reportable segments consisting of our Media, Live Events and Consumer Products segments as described above. See Note 3, Segment Information, for further details on our reportable segments.

In connection with the revisions to its reportable segments, the Company revised certain expense captions presented on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Previously, we presented Cost of revenues and Selling, general and administrative expenses. Effective in 2018, we present Operating expenses, Marketing and selling expenses and General and administrative expenses. See Note 2, Significant Accounting Policies, for further details.

Regarding the segment presentation and expense caption revisions noted above, information presented for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 included in the Consolidated Financial Statements herein and elsewhere in this Quarterly Report has been revised to conform to the current period presentation. Such revisions have no impact on our consolidated financial condition, results of operations or cash flows for the periods presented.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Our significant accounting policies are detailed in Note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements within our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017. Refer to Note 4, Revenues, for revisions made to our revenue recognition policies resulting from our adoption of the new revenue recognition standard starting in 2018. The new revenue recognition standard primarily impacted the timing of our consumer product licensing and film distribution revenues where the Company had previously recorded revenues on a lag upon the receipt of licensing royalty statements and film participation statements. In addition to revising our policies for licensing and film distribution revenues, conforming wording changes were made to certain of our revenue recognition policies to align with the language in the new revenue recognition standard.

We also amended our income tax policy to specify the Company's accounting treatment of taxes on Global Intangible Low-taxed Income ("GILTI") provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (the "Tax Act"). The Company has elected to recognize the tax on GILTI as a period expense in the period the tax is incurred.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses consist of our production costs associated with developing our content, costs associated with operating our WWE Network, venue rental and related costs associated with the staging of our live events, compensation costs for our talent, and material and related costs associated with our consumer product merchandise sales. In addition, operating expenses include certain business operating support function costs, including our talent development, data analytics, data engineering, business strategy and real estate and facilities functions, as these activities directly support the operations of our segments.

Included within Operating expenses are the following:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Amortization and impairment of feature film assets	\$ 2,331	\$ 3,262	\$ 5,856	\$ 9,065

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form 10-Q

Amortization of television production assets	7,716	2,912	20,534	13,633
Amortization of WWE Network content delivery and technology assets	1,572	1,239	5,030	4,594
Total amortization and impairment included in operating expenses	\$ 11,619	\$ 7,413	\$ 31,420	\$ 27,292

Costs to produce our live event programming are expensed when the event is first broadcast, and are not included in the amortization table noted above.

Marketing and Selling Expenses

Marketing and selling expenses consist of costs associated with the promotion and marketing of our services and products. These expenses include sponsorship and advertising costs, and the costs associated with our sales and marketing functions, creative services functions and our international offices.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses include costs associated with our corporate administrative functions, including finance, investor relations, community relations, corporate communications, information technology, legal, human resources and our Board of Directors. The Company does not allocate these costs to its business segments, as they do not directly relate to revenue generating activities.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In August 2018, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2018-15, “Customer’s Accounting for Implementation Costs Incurred in a Cloud Computing Arrangement That Is a Service Contract.” The new guidance aligns the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred in a hosting arrangement that is a service contract with the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred to develop or obtain internal-use software (and hosting arrangements that include an internal-use software license). The accounting for the service element of a hosting arrangement that is a service contract is not affected by the amendments in this update. The new guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019 (fiscal 2020 for the Company), with early adoption permitted. The new guidance should be applied either retrospectively or prospectively to all implementation costs incurred after the date of adoption. The Company expects to adopt the new guidance prospectively and does not expect the adoption to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-13, “Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework—Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement”, which modifies the disclosure requirements on fair value measurements. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019 (fiscal 2020 for the Company). Upon the effective date, certain provisions are to be applied prospectively, while others are to be applied retrospectively to all periods presented. An entity is permitted to early adopt any removed or modified disclosures upon issuance of this ASU and delay adoption of the additional disclosures until their effective date. We are currently evaluating the impact of the amendments on our consolidated financial statement disclosures. Since the amendments impact only disclosure requirements, we do not expect the amendments to have an impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-07, “Compensation – Stock Compensation (Topic 718) Improvements to Nonemployee Share-Based Accounting.” The new guidance expands the scope of Topic 718, Compensation – Stock Compensation (which currently only includes share-based payments to employees and non-employee directors) to include share-based payments issued to nonemployees for goods or services. Consequently, the accounting for share-based payments to nonemployees and employees will be substantially aligned. The new guidance supersedes Subtopic 505-50, Equity – Equity-Based payments to Non-Employees. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018 (fiscal 2019 for the Company), including interim periods within that fiscal year, with early adoption permitted. The Company has elected to early adopt the new guidance as of June 30, 2018. Since the Company does not currently have any share-based payment awards to nonemployees, the early adoption of the guidance had no impact on our consolidated financial statements. The Company will apply the guidance prospectively.

In February 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-02, "Income Statement – Reporting Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income" that gives entities the option to reclassify to retained earnings tax effects related to items in accumulated other comprehensive income that the FASB refers to as having been stranded in accumulated other comprehensive income as a result of the enactment of the Tax Act. The new guidance also includes disclosure requirements regarding an entity's accounting policy for releasing income tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive income. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018 (fiscal 2019 for the Company), including interim periods within those years. Early adoption is permitted in any interim period and should be applied either in the period of adoption or retrospectively to each period (or periods) in which the effect of the change in the U.S. federal corporate income tax rate in the Tax Act is recognized. The Company has elected to early adopt the new guidance during the first quarter of 2018 and elected not to reclassify any stranded tax effects due to the insignificance of the amount remaining in accumulated other comprehensive income. Therefore, the adoption of the new guidance had no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-09, "Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718) Scope of Modification Accounting," which provides guidance on the various types of changes which would trigger modification accounting for share-based payment awards. In summary, an entity would not apply modification accounting if the fair value, vesting conditions, and classification of the awards are the same immediately before and after the modification. The guidance is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods within those annual periods. The amendments are applied prospectively to awards modified on or after the adoption date. The new guidance was adopted on January 1, 2018 with no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-01, "Business Combinations (Topic 805) Clarifying the Definition of a Business." The amendments in this ASU clarifies the definition of a business with the objective of adding guidance to assist entities with evaluating whether transactions should be accounted for as acquisitions (or disposals) of assets or businesses. The definition of a business affects many areas of accounting including acquisitions, disposals, goodwill, and consolidation. The guidance is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. The new standard is applied prospectively to transactions occurring on or after the adoption date and no disclosures are required at transition. The new guidance was adopted on January 1, 2018 with no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-15, "Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments," which addresses eight specific cash flow issues and is intended to reduce diversity in practice in how certain cash receipts and cash payments are presented and classified in the statement of cash flows. The guidance is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. The amendments in the ASU should be applied using a retrospective transition method to each period presented. The new guidance was adopted on January 1, 2018 and did not impact current period or prior period presented cash flow statements and had no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, "Leases (Topic 842)," which will supersede the existing guidance for lease accounting. This new standard will require lessees to recognize leases on their balance sheets, and leaves lessor accounting largely unchanged. The new standard requires a dual approach for lessee accounting under which a lessee would account for leases as finance leases or operating leases. Both finance leases and operating leases will result in the lessee recognizing a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability. For finance leases, the lessee would recognize interest expense and amortization of the right-of-use asset, and for operating leases, the lessee would recognize a straight-line total lease expense. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018 and interim periods within those fiscal years, which for the Company will be effective for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019. In July 2018, the FASB issued two clarifying amendments to the lease guidance, which provide further Codification improvements and relieves the requirement to present prior comparative year results when adopting the new standard. Instead, companies can choose to recognize the cumulative-effect of applying the new standard to leased assets and liabilities as an adjustment to opening retained earnings in the year of adoption. Both amendments issued are effective in the same timeframe as ASU No. 2016-02. We intend to adopt the requirements of the new leasing standard via a cumulative-effect adjustment without restating prior periods. While we are evaluating the impact that the new guidance will have on our consolidated financial statements, we currently expect a gross-up of our consolidated balance sheet as we recognize right of use assets and lease liabilities. The extent of such gross-up remains to be determined once we complete a review of our existing lease contracts (we are primarily a lessee) and service contracts, which may contain embedded leases.

In January 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-01, "Financial Instruments-Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities," as amended by ASU No. 2018-03, "Technical Corrections and Improvements to Financial Instruments—Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities," issued in February 2018. The new guidance requires that most equity investments be measured at fair value, with subsequent changes in fair value recognized in net income (other than those accounted for under equity method of accounting). Under the new guidance, entities will no longer be able to recognize unrealized holding gains and losses on equity securities classified today as available-for-sale in other comprehensive income. The Company's current available-for-sale securities are invested primarily in debt securities which are not subject to the new guidance, therefore, we will continue to record any unrealized gains or losses on these available-for-sale debt securities through accumulated other comprehensive income. The new guidance also no

longer allows the use of the cost method of accounting for equity securities without readily determinable fair values. However, for equity investments without readily determinable fair values, entities may elect a measurement alternative to fair value that will allow those investments to be recorded at cost, less impairment, and adjusted for subsequent observable price changes. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2017. The new guidance was adopted on January 1, 2018 and the Company has elected to use the measurement alternative to measure our equity investments without readily determinable fair values and this guidance was applied prospectively. Refer to Note 10, Investment Securities and Short-Term Investments, for disclosures related to observable price change events related to our equity investments without readily determinable fair values that occurred during the current period. During the first quarter of 2018, the FASB provided clarifying guidance on the application of ASU 2016-01 through the issuance of ASU No. 2018-03. Among other things, the amendment clarifies that the adjustments made under the measurement alternative are intended to reflect the fair value of the security as of the date that the observable transaction for a similar security took place. The amendment also clarifies that an entity measuring an equity security using the measurement alternative may change its measurement approach to a fair valuation method in accordance with Topic 820, Fair Value Measurement, through an irrevocable election that would apply to that security and all identical or similar investments of the same issuer. ASU No. 2018-03 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods within those fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2018 with early adoption permitted so long as ASU No. 2016-01 has been adopted. The Company has elected to early adopt the clarifying amendments in ASU No. 2018-03 as of January 1, 2018 and will apply the clarifying amendments to all interim periods within 2018. The adoption of the clarifying amendments had no impact to our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)." This standard supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in ASC 605, "Revenue Recognition," and most industry-specific guidance. The standard requires an entity to recognize revenue in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to receive in exchange for goods or services. During 2016, the FASB issued additional interpretive guidance relating to the standard which covered the topics of principal versus agent considerations and identifying performance obligations and licensing. The standard along with the

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

subsequent clarifications issued are effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The new revenue guidance under Topic 606 was adopted on January 1, 2018 using the modified retrospective transition method. Under this transition method, we recognized the cumulative effect of initially applying the new revenue standard as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings on January 1, 2018. The comparative information presented has not been restated and continues to be reported under the accounting standards in effect for those periods. See Note 4, Revenues, for further details.

3. Segment Information

In the first quarter of 2018, the Company revised its reportable segments to better reflect the way the Company now manages its business, including resource allocation and assessment. Over the past several years, the Company has evolved its business model, with an increasing share of revenue coming from the monetization of the Company's video content across digital and direct-to-consumer platforms. As the business model evolved, management's analysis of its business segment results and the decisions on resource allocations to its business segments also changed. These changes necessitated a change in the Company's segment reporting to align with management's operational view. To reflect management's revised perspective, as discussed in Note 1, effective on January 1, 2018, the Company now classifies its operations into three reportable segments: Media, Live Events and Consumer Products. Segment information is prepared on the same basis that our chief operating decision maker manages the segments, evaluates financial results, and makes key operating decisions.

Additionally, concurrent with the aforementioned segment changes, certain business support functions including sales and marketing, our international offices, talent development and other business support functions previously reported in our Corporate and Other segment are now allocated to the three reportable segments based primarily on a percentage of revenue contribution. The remaining unallocated corporate expenses largely relate to corporate functions such as finance, legal, human resources, facilities and information technology. The Company does not allocate these costs to its business segments, as they do not directly relate to revenue generating activities. These unallocated corporate expenses will be shown, as applicable, as a reconciling item in tables where segment and consolidated results are both shown. Revenues from transactions between our operating segments are not material.

Beginning in the first quarter of 2018, the Company also changed its primary measure of segment performance from operating income before depreciation and amortization ("OIBDA") to Adjusted OIBDA. The Company defines Adjusted OIBDA as operating income before depreciation and amortization, excluding stock-based compensation, certain impairment charges and other non-recurring material items. Adjusted OIBDA includes amortization expenses directly related to our revenue generating activities, including feature film and television production asset amortization, as well as the amortization of costs related to content delivery and technology assets utilized for our

WWE Network. The Company believes the presentation of Adjusted OIBDA is relevant and useful for investors because it allows investors to view our segment performance in the same manner as the primary method used by management to evaluate segment performance and make decisions about allocating resources. Additionally, we believe that Adjusted OIBDA provides a meaningful representation of operating cash flows generated by our segments, and is a primary measure used by media investors, analysts and peers for comparative purposes. The Company revised its financial information and disclosures for prior periods to reflect the segment disclosures as if the current measure of segment performance, Adjusted OIBDA, had been in effect throughout the periods presented.

We do not disclose assets by segment information. In general, assets of the Company are leveraged across its reportable segments and we do not provide assets by segment information to our chief operating decision maker, as that information is not typically used in the determination of resource allocation and assessing business performance of each reportable segment.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

The following tables present summarized financial information for each of the Company's reportable segments:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net revenues:				
Media	\$ 142,078	\$ 130,723	\$ 478,086	\$ 389,141
Live Events	26,723	31,600	109,808	116,533
Consumer Products	19,590	24,002	69,760	83,681
Total net revenues	\$ 188,391	\$ 186,325	\$ 657,654	\$ 589,355
Adjusted OIBDA:				
Media	\$ 50,336	\$ 49,439	\$ 138,474	\$ 92,347
Live Events	120	3,663	18,458	25,826
Consumer Products	4,050	7,838	17,796	29,317
Corporate	(18,698)	(15,345)	(60,270)	(52,436)
Total Adjusted OIBDA	\$ 35,808	\$ 45,595	\$ 114,458	\$ 95,054

Reconciliation of Total Operating Income to Total Adjusted OIBDA

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Total operating income	\$ 18,127	\$ 33,980	\$ 61,091	\$ 48,664

Depreciation and amortization	5,905	6,435	19,059	19,680
Stock-based compensation	11,776	5,180	34,308	17,962
Other adjustments (1)	—	—	—	8,748
Total Adjusted OIBDA	\$ 35,808	\$ 45,595	\$ 114,458	\$ 95,054

(1) Other adjustments for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 include \$5,586 of non-recurring legal matters and other contractual obligations, and \$3,162 of certain impairment charges related to our feature films.

4. Revenues

Adoption of ASC Topic 606, “Revenue from Contracts with Customers”

On January 1, 2018, the Company adopted the new revenue recognition standard pursuant to ASC Topic 606 to all contracts using the modified retrospective method. The most significant impact relates to the acceleration in the timing of revenue recognition of our consumer product licensing and film distribution revenues. The licensing and film distribution revenues historically have not comprised a significant percentage of total consolidated revenues. In 2017, 2016 and 2015, total consumer product licensing and film distribution revenues represented 8.8%, 8.1% and 8.5% of total consolidated revenues, respectively. Prior to the adoption of the new revenue standard in 2018, we recorded revenues from our consumer product licensing arrangements and film distribution arrangements on a lag upon the receipt of statements from the licensee and/or film distributor. Under the new revenue recognition standard, revenues are recorded based on best estimates available in the period of sales or usage. Financial statements presented for the reporting periods beginning after January 1, 2018 are presented under ASC Topic 606, while prior period amounts presented are not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with our historical accounting under ASC Topic 605, Revenue Recognition. We do not expect the adoption of the new revenue standard to have a material impact to our annual consolidated financial statements on an ongoing basis, however, it will likely impact the revenues recorded in a specific quarter as compared to previously reported periods due to the lag reporting that was previously used in our consumer product licensing and film distribution arrangements.

Under the modified retrospective transition method, we recorded a net cumulative effect adjustment of \$10,086 as an increase to opening retained earnings as of January 1, 2018. The cumulative effect impact of adopting Topic 606 related primarily to our consumer product licensing revenues.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

The impact to our Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended September 30, 2018 as a result of applying ASC Topic 606 was a decrease to our Net revenues, Operating expenses and Operating income of \$2,712, \$687 and \$2,025, respectively. The impact to our Consolidated Statements of Operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 as a result of applying ASC Topic 606 was a decrease to our Net revenues, Operating expenses and Operating income of \$11,194, \$3,482 and \$7,712, respectively. The impact to our Consolidated Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2018 as a result of applying ASC Topic 606 was a decrease to our accumulated deficit and total liabilities of \$4,185 and \$2,875, respectively, and an increase to total assets of \$1,310.

Revenue Recognition Policies

Under ASC Topic 606, most of our sales revenue continues to be recognized when products are shipped or as services are performed and was not materially impacted by the adoption of the new revenue recognition standard. Revenues are generally recognized when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to our customers either at a point in time or over time, in an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. Most of our contracts have one performance obligation and all consideration is allocated to that performance obligation. Our revenues do not include material amounts of variable consideration. The variable consideration contained in our contracts relate primarily to sales or usage-based royalties earned on consumer product licensing contracts. The variability related to these sales or usage-based royalties will be resolved in the periods when the licensee generates sales related to the intellectual property license. As it relates to our Consumer Products segment, the Company accounts for shipping and handling activities as fulfillment activities.

We derive our revenues principally from the following sources: (i) content rights fees associated with the distribution of WWE's media content, (ii) subscriptions to WWE Network, (iii) fees for viewing our pay-per-view programming, (iv) feature film distribution, (v) advertising and sponsorship sales, (vi) live event ticket sales, (vii) consumer product licensing royalties from the sale by third-party licensees of WWE branded merchandise, (viii) direct-to-consumer sales of merchandise at our live event venues, and (ix) direct-to-consumer sales of our merchandise through eCommerce platforms. The below describes our revenue recognition policies in further detail for each major revenue source of the Company.

· Content rights fees:

Rights fees received from distributors of our programming, both domestically and internationally, are recorded when the program (functional intellectual property) has been delivered and control has been transferred to the distributor and the license period has begun. Any advance payments received from the distributors are deferred upon collection and recognized into revenue as content is delivered. Our typical distribution agreement is between one and five years in length and frequently provides for contractual increases over its term.

- WWE Network Subscriptions:

Revenues from the sale of subscriptions to WWE Network are recognized ratably over each paid monthly membership period. Deferred revenues consist of subscription fees billed to members that have not been recognized and gift memberships that have not been redeemed.

- Pay-per-view programming:

Revenues from our pay-per-view programming are recorded when the event is aired/performed and are based upon our initial estimate of the number of buys achieved. This initial estimate is based on preliminary buy information received from our pay-per-view distributors. These estimates are updated each reporting period based on the latest information available.

- Feature film distribution:

We partner with distributors to co-distribute our films. In these arrangements, the third-party distribution partners control the distribution and marketing of our co-distributed films, and as a result, we recognize revenue on a net basis after the third-party distributor recoups distribution fees and expenses. An estimate of film distribution revenues is recorded in the period the films are exploited and exhibited based on best available information and final adjustments to the estimated amounts are recorded when final statements are received. The estimates are derived from the best available recent information of film performance from our distributors and represents the most likely amount of revenues expected. In certain arrangements, where worldwide film rights and interests are licensed in perpetuity to third-party distribution partners, we recognize revenue upon delivery and transfer of control of the completed film to the third-party.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

· Advertising and sponsorships:

Through our sponsorship packages, we offer advertisers a full range of our promotional vehicles, including online and print advertising, on-air announcements and special appearances by our Superstars. We allocate the transaction price to all performance obligations contained within a sponsorship and advertising arrangement based upon their relative standalone selling price. Standalone selling prices are determined generally based on a rate card used to determine pricing for individual components. Revenues are recognized as each performance obligation is satisfied, which generally occurs when the sponsorship and advertising is aired, exhibited, performed or played on the applicable WWE platform. We are generally the principal in our advertising and sponsorship arrangements because we control the advertising and sponsorship inventory before it is transferred to our customers. Our control is evidenced by our sole ability to monetize the advertising and sponsorship inventory and being primarily responsible to our customers.

· Live event ticket sales:

Revenues from our live event ticket sales are recognized upon the occurrence of the related live event.

· Consumer product licensing royalties:

Licensing revenues consist principally of royalties or license fees related to various WWE themed products, such as video games, toys and apparel, which are created using WWE brands and marks (symbolic intellectual property). Revenues from our licensed products are recognized in the period of the underlying product sales based on estimates from licensees and adjustments to the estimated amounts are recorded when final statements are received. The estimates are derived from the best available recent information from our licensees of underlying sales performance and represents the most likely amount of revenues expected. Any upfront license fees or minimum guarantees received from the licensee are deferred upon collection and recognized into revenue over the contract term as the amounts are earned.

· Direct-to-consumer venue merchandise sales:

Direct-to-consumer merchandise sales consist of sales of merchandise at our live events. Revenues are recognized at the point of sale, as control is transferred to the customer.

· Direct-to-consumer eCommerce sales:

Direct-to-consumer eCommerce revenues consist of sales of merchandise on our websites, including through our WWEShop Internet storefront and on distribution platforms, including Amazon. Revenues are recognized at a point in time, as control is transferred to the customer upon shipment.

Payment Terms

Our revenues do not include material amounts of variable consideration, other than the sale or usage-based royalties earned related to our consumer product licensing and certain other content rights contracts. Our payment terms vary

by the type of products or services offered, and may be subject to contractual payment terms, which may include advance payment requirements. The time between invoicing and when payment is due is not significant, generally within 30 to 60 days. We have elected the practical expedient to not adjust the total consideration within a contract to reflect a financing component when the duration of the financing is one year or less. Our contracts do not generally include a significant financing component. Our contracts with customers do not generally result in significant obligations associated with returns, refunds or warranties.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

Disaggregated Revenues

The following table presents our revenues disaggregated by primary revenue sources. Sales and usage-based taxes are excluded from revenues.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net revenues:				
Media Segment:				
Network (including pay-per-view)	\$ 49,445	\$ 48,221	\$ 152,445	\$ 145,671
Core content rights fees (1)	65,912	60,375	197,590	179,684
Advertising and sponsorships	15,038	12,991	46,811	35,473
Other (2)	11,683	9,136	81,240	28,313
Total Media Segment net revenues	142,078	130,723	478,086	389,141
Live Events Segment:				
North American ticket sales	22,426	25,255	85,711	91,177
International ticket sales	2,238	5,081	15,771	19,006
Advertising and sponsorships	400	412	1,520	1,472
Other (3)	1,659	852	6,806	4,878
Total Live Events Segment net revenues	26,723	31,600	109,808	116,533
Consumer Products Segment:				
Consumer product licensing	8,559	11,331	28,608	40,819
eCommerce	6,786	7,211	23,304	23,519
Venue merchandise	4,245	5,460	17,848	19,343
Total Consumer Products Segment net revenues	19,590	24,002	69,760	83,681
Total net revenues	\$ 188,391	\$ 186,325	\$ 657,654	\$ 589,355

- (1) Core content rights fees consist primarily of licensing revenues earned from the distribution of our flagship programs, Raw and SmackDown Live, through global broadcast, pay television and digital platforms.
- (2) Other revenues within our Media segment reflect revenues earned from the distribution of other content, including, but not limited to, scripted, reality and other in-ring programming, as well as theatrical and direct-to-home video releases.

- (3) Other revenues within our Live Events segment primarily consists of the sale of travel packages associated with the Company's global live events and commissions earned through secondary ticketing.

Except for our WWE Network subscriptions revenues, which are recorded over time during the subscription term and our consumer product licensing revenues which are recorded over time during the licensing period, our other revenue streams identified in the table above are generally recognized at a point-in-time when the performance obligations are satisfied.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

Remaining Performance Obligations

As of September 30, 2018, for contracts greater than one year, the aggregate amount of the transaction price allocated to remaining performance obligations is \$3,476,806, comprised of our multi-year content distribution, consumer product licensing and sponsorship contracts. We will recognize rights fees related to our multi-year content distribution contracts as content is delivered to the distributors during the periods 2018 through 2028. We will recognize the revenues associated with the minimum guarantees on our multi-year consumer product licensing arrangements by the end of the licensing periods, which range from 2018 through 2024. For our multi-year sponsorship arrangements, we will recognize sponsorship revenues as the sponsorship obligations are satisfied during the periods 2018 through 2021. The transaction price related to these future obligations do not include any variable consideration, which generally consists of sales or usage-based royalties earned on consumer product licensing and certain other content rights contracts. The variability related to these sales or usage-based royalties will be resolved in the periods when the licensee generates sales related to the intellectual property license.

Contract Assets and Contract Liabilities (Deferred Revenues)

A contract asset results when goods or services have been transferred to the customer, but payment is contingent upon a future event, other than the passage of time (i.e. type of unbilled receivable). The Company does not have any material unbilled receivables, therefore, does not have any contract assets, only accounts receivable as disclosed on the face of our consolidated balance sheet.

We record deferred revenues (also referred to as contract liabilities under Topic 606) when cash payments are received or due in advance of our performance. Our deferred revenue balance primarily relates to advance payments received related to our content distribution rights agreements, our consumer product licensing agreements, and our sponsorship and advertising arrangements. The Company's deferred revenue (i.e. contract liabilities) as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 was \$77,125 and \$69,795, respectively.

The increase in the deferred revenue balance for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 of \$7,330 is primarily driven by cash payments received or due in advance of satisfying our performance obligations.

Contract Costs (Costs of Obtaining a Contract)

Except for certain multi-year television content arrangements, we generally expense sales commissions when incurred because the amortization period would have been one year or less. These costs are recorded within Marketing and selling expenses within our Consolidated Statements of Operations. Capitalized commission fees of \$2,231 and

\$2,242 at September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, relate primarily to incremental costs of obtaining our long-term television content arrangements and these costs are being amortized over the duration of the underlying content agreements on a straight-line basis to marketing and selling expense. The amount of amortization was \$345 and \$320, and \$986 and \$961 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and there was no impairment in relation to the costs capitalized.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

5. Earnings Per Share

For purposes of calculating basic and diluted earnings per share, we used the following weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income	\$ 33,590	\$ 21,854	\$ 58,370	\$ 27,827
Weighted average basic common shares outstanding	77,808	76,957	77,371	76,620
Dilutive effect of restricted and performance stock units	1,620	1,548	2,010	1,761
Dilutive effect of convertible debt instruments	11,332	—	8,563	—
Dilutive effect of employee share purchase plan	—	—	—	2
Weighted average dilutive common shares outstanding	90,760	78,505	87,944	78,383
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.36
Diluted	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.36
Anti-dilutive shares (excluded from per-share calculations):				
Net shares received on purchased call of convertible debt hedge	6,030	—	4,815	—
Outstanding restricted and performance stock units	1	—	320	—
Effect of Convertible Notes and Related Convertible Note Hedge and Warrants				

In connection with the issuance of the Convertible Notes, the Company entered into Convertible Note Hedge and Warrant transactions as described further in Note 13, Convertible Debt. The collective impact of the Convertible Note Hedge and Warrants effectively eliminates any economic dilution that may occur from the actual conversion of the Convertible Notes between the conversion price of \$24.91 per share and the strike price of the Warrants of \$31.89 per share.

The denominator of our diluted earnings per share calculation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 includes the effect of additional shares of common stock issued using the treasury stock method since the average price of our common stock exceeded the conversion price of the Convertible Notes of \$24.91 per share. In addition, the denominator of our diluted earnings per share calculation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 includes the additional shares issued related to the Warrants using the treasury stock method since the average price of our common stock exceeded the strike price of the Warrants of \$31.89 per share. The dilution from the Convertible Notes and Warrants had a \$0.05 and \$0.07 impact on diluted earnings per share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018, respectively. There was no impact on diluted earnings per share during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 since the average price of our common stock did not exceed the conversion price of \$24.91 during the periods. Prior to actual conversion, the Convertible Note Hedges are not considered for purposes of the calculation of diluted earnings per share, as their effect would be anti-dilutive.

6. Stock-based Compensation

Our 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “2016 Plan”) provides for the grant of incentive or non-qualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, other stock-based awards and performance awards to eligible participants as determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. Awards may be granted as incentives and rewards to encourage officers, employees, consultants, advisors and independent contractors of the Company and its affiliates and to non-employee directors of the Company to participate in our long-term success.

Stock-based compensation costs, which includes costs related to RSUs, PSUs, PSU-TSRs and the Company's qualified employee stock purchase plan, totaled \$11,776 and \$5,180, and \$34,308 and \$17,962 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

Restricted Stock Units

The Company grants restricted stock units ("RSUs") to officers and employees under the 2016 Plan. Stock-based compensation costs associated with our RSUs are determined using the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant. These costs are recognized over the requisite service period using the graded vesting method, net of estimated forfeitures. RSUs have a service requirement typically over a three and one-half year vesting schedule and vest in equal annual installments. We estimate forfeitures based on historical trends when recognizing compensation expense and adjust the estimate of forfeitures when they are expected to differ or as forfeitures occur. Unvested RSUs accrue dividend equivalents at the same rate as are paid on our shares of Class A common stock. The dividend equivalents are subject to the same vesting schedule as the underlying RSUs.

The following table summarizes the RSU activity during the nine months ended September 30, 2018:

	Weighted-
	Average
	Grant-Date
	Units Fair Value
Unvested at January 1, 2018	477,792 \$ 18.33
Granted	185,059 \$ 36.92
Vested	(208,396) \$ 17.45
Forfeited	(39,892) \$ 24.62
Dividend equivalents	3,771 \$ 23.67
Unvested at September 30, 2018	418,334 \$ 26.44

Performance Stock Units

The Company grants performance stock units (“PSUs”) to officers and employees under the 2016 Plan. Stock-based compensation costs associated with our PSUs are initially determined using the fair market value of the Company’s common stock on the date the awards are approved by our Compensation Committee (service inception date). The vesting of these PSUs are subject to certain performance conditions and a service requirement of typically three and one-half years. Until the performance conditions are met, stock compensation costs associated with these PSUs are re-measured each reporting period based upon the fair market value of the Company's common stock and the estimated performance attainment on the reporting date. The ultimate number of PSUs that are issued to an employee is the result of the actual performance of the Company at the end of the performance period compared to the performance conditions. Stock compensation costs for our PSUs are recognized over the requisite service period using the graded vesting method, net of estimated forfeitures. We estimate forfeitures based on historical trends when recognizing compensation expense and adjust the estimate of forfeitures when they are expected to differ or as forfeitures occur. Unvested PSUs accrue dividend equivalents once the performance conditions are met at the same rate as are paid on our shares of Class A common stock. The dividend equivalents are subject to the same vesting schedule as the underlying PSUs.

The following table summarizes the PSU activity during the nine months ended September 30, 2018:

	Weighted-	
	Average	
	Grant-Date	
	Units	Fair Value
Unvested at January 1, 2018	2,053,931	\$ 21.37
Granted	369,996	\$ 96.34
Achievement adjustment	100,753	\$ 33.84
Vested	(1,244,447)	\$ 19.76
Forfeited	(162,682)	\$ 49.79
Dividend equivalents	11,736	\$ 22.97
Unvested at September 30, 2018	1,129,287	\$ 46.21

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we granted 369,996 PSUs, which are subject to certain performance conditions.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

During the year ended December 31, 2017, we granted 550,460 PSUs, which were subject to performance conditions. During the first quarter of 2018, it was determined that the performance conditions related to these PSUs were exceeded, which resulted in an increase of 100,753 PSUs in 2018 relating to the initial 2017 PSU grant.

Performance Stock Units with a Market Condition Tied to Relative Total Shareholder Return

During the first quarter of 2018, the Compensation Committee approved certain agreements to grant PSUs with a market condition (“PSU-TSRs”) where vesting is conditioned upon the total shareholder return performance of the Company’s stock relative to the performance of a peer group over five distinct performance periods from 2018 through 2024. The grant date fair value of the award was calculated using a Monte-Carlo simulation model which factors in the number of awards to be earned based on the achievement of the market condition. This model simulates the various stock price movements of the Company and peer group companies using certain assumptions, including the stock price of WWE and those of the peer group, stock price volatility, the risk-free interest rate, correlation coefficients, and expected dividend yield. The grant date fair value of the award totaled \$16,168 and is being amortized as compensation cost over the requisite service period using the graded vesting method from March 2018 through July 2024.

The following table summarizes the PSU-TSR activity during the nine months ended September 30, 2018:

	Weighted-Average Grant-Date	
	Units	Fair Value
Unvested at January 1, 2018	—	\$ —
Granted	340,971	\$ 47.42
Unvested at September 30, 2018	340,971	\$ 47.42

7. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consisted of the following:

	As of September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Land, buildings and improvements	\$ 136,895	\$ 134,052
Equipment	115,305	98,245
Corporate aircraft	32,249	31,277
Vehicles	905	905
	285,354	264,479
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	(149,829)	(133,154)
Total	\$ 135,525	\$ 131,325

Depreciation expense for property and equipment totaled \$5,682 and \$6,151, and \$18,406 and \$18,517 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

During the second quarter of 2018, we recorded a non-cash abandonment charge of \$1,693 to write off the carrying value of internal use software that we deemed will no longer be used by the Company and had no further alternative use. This charge is included as a component of Operating expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and included within our Media segment results for the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

8. Feature Film Production Assets, Net

Feature film production assets consisted of the following:

	As of	
	September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
In release	\$ 11,653	\$ 15,869
Completed but not released	3,041	2,211
In production	2,199	3,107
In development	358	1,113
Total	\$ 17,251	\$ 22,300

Approximately 27% of “In release” film production assets are estimated to be amortized over the next 12 months, and approximately 63% of “In release” film production assets are estimated to be amortized over the next three years. We anticipate amortizing approximately 80% of our "In release" film production assets within four years as we receive revenues associated with television distribution of our licensed films. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, we amortized \$884 and \$2,346, and \$2,192 and \$4,987, respectively, of feature film production assets.

We currently have three films designated as “Completed but not released” and have one film “In production.” We also have capitalized certain script development costs and pre-production costs for various other film projects designated as “In development.” Capitalized script development costs are evaluated at each reporting period for impairment and to determine if a project is deemed to be abandoned. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, we expensed \$122 and \$157, and \$851 and \$157, respectively, related to previously capitalized development costs related to abandoned projects.

Unamortized feature film production assets are evaluated for impairment each reporting period. We review and revise estimates of ultimate revenue and participation costs at each reporting period to reflect the most current information available. If estimates for a film’s ultimate revenue and/or costs are revised and indicate a significant decline in a film’s

profitability or if events or circumstances change that indicate we should assess whether the fair value of a film is less than its unamortized film costs, we calculate the film's estimated fair value using a discounted cash flows model. If fair value is less than unamortized cost, the film asset is written down to fair value.

We recorded impairment charges of \$1,325 and \$759, and \$2,813 and \$3,921 related to our feature films during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. These impairment charges represent the excess of the recorded net carrying value over the estimated fair value.

9. Television Production Assets, Net

Television production assets consisted of the following:

	As of	
	September 30,	September 30,
	2018	2017
In release	\$ 3,072	\$ 3,765
In production	3,223	3,527
Total	\$ 6,295	\$ 7,292

Television production assets consist primarily of non-live event episodic television series we have produced for distribution through a variety of platforms including on our WWE Network. Amounts capitalized include development costs, production costs, production overhead and employee salaries. Costs to produce episodic programming for television or distribution on WWE Network are amortized in the proportion that revenues bear to management's estimates of the ultimate revenue expected to be recognized from exploitation, exhibition or sale.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

Amortization of television production assets consisted of the following:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
WWE Network programming	\$ 630	\$ 566	\$ 5,688	\$ 3,685
Television programming	7,086	2,346	14,846	9,948
Total	\$ 7,716	\$ 2,912	\$ 20,534	\$ 13,633

Costs to produce our live event programming are expensed when the event is first broadcast, and are not included in the capitalized costs or amortization tables noted above.

Unamortized television production assets are evaluated for impairment each reporting period. If conditions indicate a potential impairment, and the estimated future cash flows are not sufficient to recover the unamortized asset, the asset is written down to fair value. In addition, if we determine that a program will not likely air, we will expense the remaining unamortized asset. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, we did not record any impairments related to our television production assets.

10. Investment Securities and Short-Term Investments

Investment Securities

Included within Investment Securities are the following:

	As of	
	September 30,	December 31,
	2018	2017
Equity method investment	\$ 14,671	\$ 14,664
Equity investments without readily determinable fair values	12,922	12,703
Total investment securities	\$ 27,593	\$ 27,367
Equity Method Investment		

In March 2015, WWE and Authentic Brands Group (“ABG”) formed a joint venture to re-launch an apparel and lifestyle brand, Tapout (the "Brand"). ABG agreed to contribute certain intangible assets for the Brand, licensing contracts, systems, and other administrative functions to Tapout. The Company agreed to contribute promotional and marketing services related to the venture for a period of at least five years in exchange for a 50% interest in the profits and losses and voting interest in Tapout. The Company valued its initial investment of \$13,800 based on the fair value of the existing licensing contracts contributed by ABG. To the extent that Tapout records income or losses, we record our share proportionate to our ownership percentage, and any dividends received reduce the carrying amount of the investment. Net equity method earnings from Tapout are included as a component of Other income, net on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Net dividends received from Tapout are reflected on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows within Net cash provided by operating activities. The Company did not record any impairment charges related to our investment in Tapout during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017.

The following table presents the net equity method earnings from Tapout and net dividends received from Tapout for the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net equity method earnings from Tapout	\$ 158	\$ 198	\$ 859	\$ 843
Net dividends received from Tapout	(68)	(164)	(852)	(832)
Equity in earnings of affiliate, net of dividends received	\$ 90	\$ 34	\$ 7	\$ 11

As promotional services are provided to Tapout, we record revenue and reduce the existing service obligation. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, we recorded revenues of \$608 and \$696, and \$2,264 and \$2,090, respectively,

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

related to our fulfillment of our promotional services obligation to Tapout. The remaining service obligation as of September 30, 2018 was \$3,493, and was included in Deferred Income and Other Non-Current Liabilities for \$2,760 and \$733, respectively.

Our known maximum exposure to loss approximates the remaining service obligation to Tapout, which was \$3,493 as of September 30, 2018. Creditors of Tapout do not have recourse against the general credit of the Company.

Equity Investments Without Readily Determinable Fair Values

We evaluate our equity investments without readily determinable fair values for impairment if factors indicate that a significant decrease in value has occurred. Beginning in 2018, the Company prospectively adopted a new accounting standard on the accounting for equity investments that do not have readily determinable fair values. Refer to Note 2, Significant Accounting Policies – Recent Accounting Pronouncements, for further details. Under the new standard, the Company has elected to use the measurement alternative to fair value that will allow these investments to be recorded at cost, less impairment, and adjusted for subsequent observable price changes.

The following table summarizes the impairments and observable price change event adjustments recorded on our equity investments without readily determinable fair values for the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2018		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2018	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Impairments (1)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (3,000)	\$ —
Observable price change adjustments (2)	2,181	—	2,181	—
Total income (loss) from adjustments to equity investments	\$ 2,181	\$ —	\$ (819)	\$ —

(1) During the second quarter of 2018, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$3,000 on our investment in a mobile video publishing business for the excess of the carrying value over its estimated fair value resulting from going concern issues of the underlying investee company. This charge is reflected in Other income, net in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

(2) During the third quarter of 2018, the Company recorded an upward adjustment of \$2,181 to the carrying value of our existing equity investment in an e-sports company. The adjustment was the result of an observable price change event in connection with a financing round completed by the investee where the underlying value of the

preferred shares issued were greater than the value per share of WWE's substantially similar preferred shares in the investee. This adjustment is reflected in Other income, net in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Short-Term Investments

Short-term investments measured at fair value consisted of the following:

	As of September 30, 2018				As of December 31, 2017			
	Gross Unrealized			Fair Value	Gross Unrealized			Fair Value
	Amortized Cost	Gain	(Loss)		Amortized Cost	Gain	(Loss)	
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 56,571	\$ —	\$ (657)	\$ 55,914	\$ 73,169	\$ —	\$ (479)	\$ 72,690
Corporate bonds	100,622	—	(685)	99,937	58,003	—	(329)	57,674
Municipal bonds	11,953	—	(70)	11,883	17,538	7	(99)	17,446
Government agency bonds	22,074	—	(336)	21,738	12,007	—	(73)	11,934
Total	\$ 191,220	\$ —	\$ (1,748)	\$ 189,472	\$ 160,717	\$ 7	\$ (980)	\$ 159,744

We classify the investments listed in the above table as available-for-sale debt securities. Such investments consist of U.S. Treasury securities, corporate bonds, municipal bonds, including pre-refunded municipal bonds, and government agency bonds. These investments are stated at fair value as required by the applicable accounting guidance.

Unrealized gains and losses on such securities are reflected, net of tax, as other comprehensive income (loss) in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

Our U.S. Treasury securities, corporate bonds, municipal bonds and government agency bonds are included in Short-term investments, net on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Realized gains and losses on investments are included in earnings and are derived using the specific identification method for determining the cost of securities sold.

As of September 30, 2018, contractual maturities of these securities are as follows:

	Maturities
U.S. Treasury securities	2 months - 2 years
Corporate bonds	6 months - 5 years
Municipal bonds	1 month - 1 year
Government agency bonds	4 months - 4 years

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, we recognized \$1,137 and \$649, and \$3,244 and \$1,449, respectively, of interest income on our short-term investments. Interest income is reflected as a component of Other income, net within our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The following table summarizes the short-term investment activity:

Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
September 30,		September 30,	
2018	2017	2018	2017

Proceeds from sales and maturities of short-term investments	\$ 14,660	\$ 10,330	\$ 50,833	\$ 23,990
Purchases of short-term investments	\$ 17,520	\$ 35,110	\$ 82,064	\$ 123,806

11. Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is determined based on the exchange price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is a market-based measurement based on assumptions that market participants would use to price the asset or liability. Accordingly, the framework considers markets or observable inputs as the preferred source of value followed by assumptions based on hypothetical transactions, in the absence of market inputs. The fair value should be calculated based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, not on assumptions specific to the entity. In addition, the fair value of assets and liabilities should include consideration of non-performance risk, including the Company's own credit risk.

Additionally, the accounting guidance establishes a three-level hierarchy that ranks the quality and reliability of information used in developing fair value estimates. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets and the lowest priority to unobservable data. In cases where two or more levels of inputs are used to determine fair value, a financial instrument's level is determined based on the lowest level input that is considered significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The three input levels of the fair value hierarchy are summarized as follows:

- Level 1- Observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2- Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for similar assets and liabilities that are directly or indirectly observable; or
- Level 3- Unobservable inputs, such as discounted cash flow models or valuations, in which little or no market data exists.

Certain financial instruments are carried at cost on the Consolidated Balance Sheets, which approximates fair value due to their short-term, highly liquid nature. The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, money market accounts, accounts receivable, and accounts payable approximate fair value because of the short-term nature of such instruments.

We have classified our investment in U.S. Treasury securities, corporate bonds, municipal bonds and government agency bonds, which collectively are investments in available-for-sale debt securities, within Level 2, as their valuation requires quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active and/or model-based valuation techniques for which all significant inputs are observable in the market or can be corroborated by observable market

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

data. The U.S. Treasury securities, corporate bonds, municipal bonds and government agency bonds are valued based on model-driven valuations. A third-party service provider assists the Company with compiling market prices from a variety of industry standard data sources, security master files from large financial institutions and other third-party sources that are used to value our corporate bond, U.S. Treasury securities, municipal bond and government agency bond investments. The Company did not have any transfers between Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 fair value investments during the periods presented.

The fair value measurements of our equity investments without readily determinable fair value are classified within Level 3 as significant unobservable inputs are used as part of the determination of fair value. Significant unobservable inputs include variables such as near-term prospects of the investees, recent financing activities of the investees, and the investees' capital structure, as well as other economic variables, which reflect assumptions market participants would use in pricing these assets. Beginning in 2018, the Company prospectively adopted a new accounting standard on the accounting for equity investments that do not have readily determinable fair values. Refer to Note 2, Significant Accounting Policies – Recent Accounting Pronouncements, for further details. Under the new standard, the Company has elected to use the measurement alternative to fair value that will allow these investments to be recorded at cost, less impairment, and adjusted for subsequent observable price changes. Refer to Note 10, Investment Securities and Short-Term Investments, for details on impairments and observable pricing event adjustments related to our equity investments without readily determinable fair values.

The Company's long-lived property and equipment, feature film and television production assets are required to be measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis if it is determined that indicators of impairment exist. These assets are recorded at fair value only when an impairment is recognized. During the second quarter of 2018, we recorded a non-cash abandonment charge of \$1,693 to write off the carrying value of internal use software that we deemed will no longer be used by the Company and had no further alternative use. This charge is included as a component of Operating expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and included within our Media segment results. With the exception of this charge, the Company did not record any other impairment charges on long lived property and equipment and television production assets during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017. The Company classifies these assets as Level 3 within the fair value hierarchy due to significant unobservable inputs.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, the Company recorded impairment charges of \$2,813 and \$3,921 on feature film production assets based upon fair value measurements of \$2,475 and \$3,074, respectively. See Note 8, Feature Film Production Assets, Net, for further discussion. The Company classifies these assets as Level 3 within the fair value hierarchy due to significant unobservable inputs. The Company utilizes a discounted cash flows model to determine the fair value of these impaired films where indicators of impairment exist. The significant unobservable inputs to this model are the Company's expected cash flows for the film, including

projected home video sales, pay and free TV sales and international sales, and a discount rate of 13% that we estimate market participants would seek for bearing the risk associated with such assets. The Company utilizes an independent third-party valuation specialist who assists us in gathering the necessary inputs used in our model.

The fair value of the Company's long-term debt, consisting of a mortgage loan assumed in connection with a building purchase and a promissory note secured by the Company's Corporate Jet, is estimated based upon quoted price estimates for similar debt arrangements. At September 30, 2018, the face amount of the mortgage loan and promissory note approximates their fair value.

The convertible debt is not marked to fair value at the end of each reporting period, but instead is reported at amortized cost. As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the calculation of the fair value of the debt component of the Company's convertible debt required the use of Level 3 inputs, and was determined by calculating the fair value of similar debt without the associated conversion feature based on market conditions at that time:

	September 30, 2018		December 31, 2017	
	Carrying		Carrying	
	Fair Value	Value (1)	Fair Value	Value (1)
Convertible senior notes	\$ 191,468	\$ 186,196	\$ 182,661	\$ 182,783

(1) The carrying value of the convertible debt instrument presented in the table above represents the face value of the convertible note less unamortized debt discount.

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

12. Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses

Accounts payable and accrued expenses consisted of the following:

	As of	
	September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Trade related	\$ 10,271	\$ 12,727
Staff related	7,787	7,980
Management incentive compensation	27,383	21,556
Talent related	3,905	5,356
Accrued WWE Network related expenses	2,331	2,633
Accrued event and television production	10,084	7,929
Accrued legal and professional	4,929	5,182
Accrued purchases of property and equipment	5,577	2,334
Accrued film liability	2,683	1,993
Accrued other	19,558	10,048
Total	\$ 94,508	\$ 77,738

Accrued other includes accruals for our international and licensing business activities, as well as other miscellaneous accruals, none of which categories individually exceeds 5% of current liabilities.

13. Convertible Debt

In December 2016, we issued \$200,000 aggregate principal amount of 3.375% convertible senior notes due 2023 and subsequently in January 2017, we issued an additional \$15,000 aggregate principal amount of such convertible notes

through the partial exercise of an over-allotment option (collectively, the “Convertible Notes”). The Convertible Notes are due December 15, 2023, unless earlier repurchased by us or converted. Interest is payable semi-annually in arrears on June 15 and December 15 of each year. The sale of the Convertible Notes in December 2016 and January 2017 resulted in \$193,899 and \$14,534 in net proceeds, respectively, to WWE after deducting the initial purchasers’ discount and the estimated offering expenses. We used \$36,658 of the net proceeds from the sale of the Convertible Notes to pay the cost of the convertible bond hedges, as described below, after such cost was partially offset by the proceeds to us from the sale of warrants in the warrant transactions, as described below.

The Convertible Notes are governed by an Indenture between us, as issuer, and U.S. Bank, National Association, as trustee. The Convertible Notes will be our general unsecured obligations and will rank senior in right of payment to any of our indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the Convertible Notes; equal in right of payment to any of our unsecured indebtedness that is not so subordinated; effectively junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and structurally junior to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of our subsidiaries. In the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up, our assets that secure secured debt will be available to pay obligations on the Convertible Notes only after all indebtedness under such secured debt has been repaid in full from such assets.

Upon conversion of the Convertible Notes, we will pay or deliver, as the case may be, cash, shares of our Class A common stock or a combination of cash and shares of Class A common stock, at our election, at a conversion rate of approximately 40.1405 shares of common stock per \$1 principal amount of the Convertible Notes, which corresponds to an initial conversion price of approximately \$24.91 per share of our Class A common stock. At any time, prior to the close on the business day immediately preceding June 15, 2023, the Convertible Notes will be convertible under the following circumstances:

- a) During any calendar quarter beginning after the calendar quarter ending on December 31, 2016 (and only during such calendar quarter), if the last reported sale price of our Class A common stock for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the immediately preceding quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the conversion price on each applicable trading day;

Table of Contents

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

b) During the 5 business day period after any 10 consecutive trading day period (the “measurement period”) in which the trading price per \$1 principal amount of Convertible Notes for each trading day of the measurement period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our Class A common stock and the conversion rate on each such trading day;

c) Upon the occurrence of specified corporate events; or

d) On or after June 15, 2023 until the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, holders may convert all or any portion of their Convertible Notes, in multiples of \$1 principal amount, at the option of the holder regardless of the foregoing circumstances.

Pursuant to item (a) noted above, the Convertible Notes have been convertible since April 1, 2018, and holders of the Convertible Notes have the right to convert their notes at any time through at least December 31, 2018. As of September 30, 2018, since the Convertible Notes are convertible at the option of the holders, the Convertible Notes are reflected in current liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheet. As of September 30, 2018, no actual conversions have occurred to date. Refer to Note 5, Earnings Per Share, for a description of the dilutive nature of the Convertible Notes.

As a result of our cash conversion option, we separately accounted for the value of the embedded conversion option as a debt discount. The value of the embedded conversion option was determined based on the estimated fair value of the debt without the conversion feature, which was determined using an expected present value technique (income approach) to estimate the fair value of similar nonconvertible debt; the debt discount is being amortized as additional non-cash interest expense over the term of the Convertible Notes using the effective interest method with an effective interest rate of 6.40% per annum. The equity component is not remeasured as long as it continues to meet the conditions for equity classification. In accounting for the transaction costs related to the Note issuances, we allocated the total amount of offering costs incurred to the debt and equity components based on their relative values. Offering costs attributable to the debt component, totaling \$5,454, are being amortized as non-cash interest expense over the term of the Convertible Notes, and offering costs attributable to the equity component, totaling \$1,110, were netted with the equity component in stockholders' equity.

The Convertible Notes consisted of the following components:

	As of	
	September 30,	December 31,
	2018	2017
Debt component:		
Principal	\$ 215,000	\$ 215,000
Less: Unamortized debt discount	(28,804)	(32,217)
Less: Unamortized debt issuance costs	(4,442)	(4,883)
Net carrying amount	\$ 181,754	\$ 177,900

Equity component (1) \$ 35,547 \$ 35,547

(1) Recorded in the Consolidated Balance Sheets within additional paid-in capital, net of the \$1,110 issuance costs in equity.

The following table sets forth total interest expense recognized related to the Convertible Notes: