IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR THE JOINT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION OF HIGHER GROUND EDUCATION, INC. AND ITS AFFILIATED DEBTORS

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THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION OF AN ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THE PLAN. ACCEPTANCES OR REJECTIONS MAY NOT BE SOLICITED UNTIL THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT. THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BUT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT. THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL ANY SECURITIES AND IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY ANY SECURITIES.

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal identification number, are: Higher Ground Education Inc. (7265); Guidepost A LLC (8540); Prepared Montessorian LLC (6181); Terra Firma Services LLC (6999); Guidepost Birmingham LLC (2397); Guidepost Bradley Hills LLC (2058); Guidepost Branchburg LLC (0494); Guidepost Carmel LLC (4060); Guidepost FIC B LLC (8609); Guidepost FIC C LLC (1518); Guidepost Goodyear LLC (1363); Guidepost Las Colinas LLC (9767); Guidepost Leawood LLC (3453); Guidepost Muirfield Village LLC (1889); Guidepost Richardson LLC (7111); Guidepost South Riding LLC (2403); Guidepost St Robert LLC (5136); Guidepost The Woodlands LLC (6101); Guidepost Walled Lake LLC (9118); HGE FIC D LLC (6499); HGE FIC E LLC (0056); HGE FIC F LLC (8861); HGE FIC G LLC (5500); HGE FIC H LLC (8817); HGE FIC I LLC (1138); HGE FIC K LLC (8558); HGE FIC LLC (2052); HGE FIC M LLC (8912); HGE FIC N LLC (6774); HGE FIC O LLC (4678); HGE FIC P LLC (1477); HGE FIC Q LLC (3122); HGE FIC R LLC (9661); LePort Emeryville LLC (7324); AltSchool II LLC (0403). The Debtors' mailing address is 1321 Upland Dr. PMB 20442, Houston, Texas 77043.



THE DEBTORS ARE PROVIDING THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TO CERTAIN HOLDERS OF CLAIMS FOR PURPOSES OF SOLICITING VOTES TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE JOINT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION OF HIGHER GROUND EDUCATION, INC, TOGETHER WITH ITS AFFILIATED DEBTORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE "DEBTORS") PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE (AS MAY BE AMENDED, MODIFIED, OR SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME. AND INCLUDING ALL EXHIBITS AND SUPPLEMENTS THERETO, THE "PLAN"). A COPY OF THE PLAN TO WHICH THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT RELATES IS ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A. FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS BEING PROVIDED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF VOTING TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN OR OBJECTING TO CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN. NOTHING IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT MAY BE USED BY ANY PARTY FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE PLAN, EACH HOLDER ENTITLED TO VOTE SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, INCLUDING THE RISK FACTORS DESCRIBED HEREIN. IN THE EVENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE PLAN AND THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, THE PLAN SHALL GOVERN.

THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT ARE MADE AS OF THE DATE HEREOF UNLESS ANOTHER TIME IS SPECIFIED HEREIN, AND THE DELIVERY OF THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WILL NOT CREATE AN IMPLICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE INFORMATION STATED SINCE THE DATE HEREOF.

HOLDERS OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS SHOULD NOT CONSTRUE THE CONTENTS OF THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AS PROVIDING ANY LEGAL, BUSINESS, FINANCIAL, OR TAX ADVICE. THE DEBTORS URGE EACH HOLDER OF A CLAIM OR INTEREST TO CONSULT WITH ITS OWN ADVISORS WITH RESPECT TO ANY LEGAL, FINANCIAL, SECURITIES, TAX, OR BUSINESS ADVICE IN REVIEWING THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, THE PLAN, AND THE RESTRUCTURING TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED THEREBY. FURTHERMORE, THE BANKRUPTCY COURT'S APPROVAL OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (WHEN AND IF APPROVED) DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE BANKRUPTCY COURT'S APPROVAL OF THE PLAN.

THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT CONTAINS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SUMMARIES OF THE PLAN, CERTAIN STATUTORY PROVISIONS, AND CERTAIN ANTICIPATED EVENTS IN THE DEBTORS' CHAPTER 11 CASES. ALTHOUGH THE DEBTORS BELIEVE THAT THESE SUMMARIES ARE FAIR AND ACCURATE, THESE SUMMARIES ARE QUALIFIED IN THEIR ENTIRETY TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY DO NOT SET FORTH THE ENTIRE TEXT OF SUCH DOCUMENTS OR STATUTORY PROVISIONS OR EVERY DETAIL OF SUCH ANTICIPATED EVENTS. IN THE EVENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCY OR DISCREPANCY BETWEEN A DESCRIPTION IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, THE PLAN OR SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS WILL GOVERN FOR ALL PURPOSES. FACTUAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE DEBTORS' MANAGEMENT EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY NOTED. THE DEBTORS DO NOT REPRESENT OR WARRANT THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN OR ATTACHED HERETO IS WITHOUT ANY MATERIAL INACCURACY OR OMISSION. INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO ANY FINANCIAL DATA, PROJECTIONS, OR ANALYSES.

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THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE, AND MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED AS, AN ADMISSION OF FACT, LIABILITY, STIPULATION, OR WAIVER. THE DEBTORS OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED PARTY MAY SEEK TO INVESTIGATE, FILE, AND PROSECUTE CLAIMS AND MAY OBJECT TO CLAIMS AFTER THE CONFIRMATION OR EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PLAN, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IDENTIFIES ANY SUCH CLAIMS OR OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS.

THE DEBTORS ARE MAKING THE STATEMENTS AND PROVIDING THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AS OF THE DATE HEREOF, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY NOTED. ALTHOUGH THE DEBTORS MAY SUBSEQUENTLY UPDATE THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, THE DEBTORS HAVE NO AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO DO SO AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ANY DUTY TO PUBLICLY UPDATE ANY FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS, WHETHER AS A RESULT OF NEW INFORMATION, FUTURE EVENTS, OR OTHERWISE. HOLDERS OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS REVIEWING THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SHOULD NOT INFER THAT, AT THE TIME OF THEIR REVIEW, THE FACTS SET FORTH HEREIN HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WAS FILED. INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, MODIFICATION, OR AMENDMENT. THE DEBTORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO FILE OR DISTRIBUTE AN AMENDED OR MODIFIED PLAN AND RELATED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FROM TIME TO TIME, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THE PLAN.

THE DEBTORS (I) HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION OR MAKE ANY REPRESENTATION ABOUT THE DEBTORS OR THE PLAN THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM, OR IN ADDITION TO, THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OR IN ANY OF THE MATERIALS THAT HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OR PLAN, AS APPLICABLE, AND (II) DO NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR, OR CAN PROVIDE ANY ASSURANCE AS TO THE RELIABILITY OF, ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT OTHERS MAY GIVE YOU. THE DEBTORS HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANY REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE VALUE OF THE DEBTORS' PROPERTY OTHER THAN AS SET FORTH IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, THE PLAN, OR ANY PLAN SUPPLEMENT.

IF THE PLAN IS CONFIRMED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT AND THE EFFECTIVE DATE OCCURS, ALL HOLDERS OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS (INCLUDING THOSE HOLDERS OF CLAIMS WHO DO NOT SUBMIT BALLOTS TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN, THOSE HOLDERS OF CLAIMS WHO VOTE TO REJECT THE PLAN, OR THOSE

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YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ THE PLAN, ANY PLAN SUPPLEMENT, AND THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, INCLUDING THE EXHIBITS HERETO, IN THEIR ENTIRETY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR BALLOT TO VOTE ON THE PLAN.

THE BANKRUPTCY COURT'S APPROVAL OF THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT OF THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN OR AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT OF THE MERITS OF THE PLAN.

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THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 1125 AND 1126 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 3016(b). THE BANKRUPTCY COURT HAS NOT YET REVIEWED THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OR THE PLAN. THE SECURITIES TO BE ISSUED ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL NOT HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SEC UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE "SECURITIES ACT"), OR

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THE DEBTORS EXPECT TO RELY ON SECTION 1145 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE OR SECTION 4(A)(2) OF THE SECURITIES ACT AND/OR REGULATION D PROMULGATED THEREUNDER TO EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT AND BLUE SKY LAWS THE OFFER, ISSUANCE, AND DISTRIBUTION, IF APPLICABLE, OF EQUITY INTERESTS UNDER THE PLAN. NEITHER THE SOLICITATION OF VOTES TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN (THE "SOLICITATION") NOR THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT CONSTITUTES AN OFFER TO SELL OR THE SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY SECURITIES IN ANY STATE OR JURISDICTION IN WHICH SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT CONTAINS "FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS" WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES SECURITIES LAWS. STATEMENTS CONTAINING WORDS SUCH AS "ANTICIPATE," "BELIEVE," "ESTIMATE," "EXPECT," "INTEND," "PLAN," "PROJECT," "TARGET," "MODEL," "CAN," "COULD," "MAY," "SHOULD," "WILL," "WOULD," OR SIMILAR WORDS OR THE NEGATIVE THEREOF. CONSTITUTE "FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS." HOWEVER, NOT ALL FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT MAY CONTAIN ONE OR MORE OF THESE IDENTIFYING TERMS. FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE BASED ON THE DEBTORS' CURRENT EXPECTATIONS, BELIEFS, ASSUMPTIONS, AND ESTIMATES. THESE STATEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT RISKS. UNCERTAINTIES, AND ASSUMPTIONS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT AND COULD CAUSE ACTUAL RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY AND ADVERSELY FROM THOSE EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED IN THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. ALL FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DEBTORS OR PERSONS OR ENTITIES ACTING ON THEIR BEHALF ARE EXPRESSLY QUALIFIED IN THEIR ENTIRETY BY THE CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. THE DEBTORS ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO (AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ANY OBLIGATION TO) UPDATE OR ALTER ANY FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS WHETHER AS A RESULT OF NEW INFORMATION, FUTURE EVENTS, OR OTHERWISE, UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT.

YOU ARE CAUTIONED THAT ALL FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE NECESSARILY SPECULATIVE, AND THERE ARE CERTAIN RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES THAT COULD CAUSE ACTUAL EVENTS OR RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE REFERRED TO IN SUCH FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. THE LIQUIDATION ANALYSIS, FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS, AND OTHER PROJECTIONS AND FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN AND ATTACHED HERETO ARE ONLY ESTIMATES, AND THE TIMING AND AMOUNT OF ACTUAL DISTRIBUTIONS TO HOLDERS OF ALLOWED CLAIMS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MAY BE AFFECTED BY MANY FACTORS THAT CANNOT BE PREDICTED. ANY ANALYSES, ESTIMATES, OR RECOVERY PROJECTIONS MAY OR MAY NOT TURN OUT TO BE ACCURATE.

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit A Debtors' Joint Plan of Reorganization²

Exhibit B Financial Projections³

Exhibit C Liquidation Analysis⁴

² See Docket No. 94.

³ To be (a) filed by the Debtors on or before the deadline by which the Debtors must file the Plan Supplement and (b) made available at the website maintained by the Claims and Noticing Agent at https://veritaglobal.net/higherground (free of charge).

⁴ To be (a) filed by the Debtors on or before the deadline by which the Debtors must file the Plan Supplement and (b) made available at the website maintained by the Claims and Noticing Agent at https://veritaglobal.net/higherground (free of charge).

ARTICLE I. Introduction

To implement a comprehensive financial restructuring, on June 17, 2025 and June 18, 2025 (collectively, the "Petition Date"), Higher Ground Education, Inc. ("HGE") and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), each commenced voluntary cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). The Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases have been jointly administered for procedural purposes and are pending before the Honorable Michelle V. Larson in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Bankruptcy Court").

Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors engaged Foley & Lardner LLP ("Foley") as their restructuring counsel and Sierra Constellation Partners LLC ("SCP") as their financial advisor to advise and assist the Debtors with their restructuring initiatives. In consultation with their restructuring advisors, the Debtors commenced these Chapter 11 Cases with the broad support of all or substantially all of the Debtors' major stakeholder groups, as evidenced by a restructuring support agreement (the "Restructuring Support **Agreement**" or the "**RSA**").⁵ The RSA follows significant diligence, discussions, and negotiations around a value-maximizing restructuring transaction to be effectuated through the pre-arranged joint chapter 11 plan, as further described in this disclosure statement (including all exhibits hereto, the "Disclosure Statement"). In consultation with their retained advisors, the Debtors have prepared this Disclosure Statement pursuant to sections 1125 and 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code in connection with the solicitation of acceptances with respect to the Joint Plan of Reorganization of the Higher Ground Education, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors (as may be amended or modified from time to time and including all exhibits and supplements thereto, the "Plan"), filed contemporaneously herewith. This Disclosure Statement is intended to provide Holders of Claims and Interests with "adequate information" as that term is defined in section 1125(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, to enable them to make an informed judgment about the Plan. Among other things, the Disclosure Statement describes, in detail, the Debtors' prepetition business operations and corporate structure, the facts and circumstances leading to the Debtors filing of the Chapter 11 Cases, the terms of the Plan, the treatment of Claims and Interests under the Plan, and the alternatives to confirmation of the Plan. The Plan constitutes a separate chapter 11 plan for each of the Debtors, unless otherwise provided for in the Plan. A copy of the Plan is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference.⁶

The Debtors strongly believe that the Plan is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their respective creditors and interest holders, and that the Plan represents the best available alternative at this time and will provide material benefits to the stakeholders in these Chapter 11 Cases. For these reasons, the Debtors strongly recommend that holders of Claims entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan vote to accept the Plan.

As described below, you are receiving this Disclosure Statement because you are a Holder of a Claim entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. **Before voting on the Plan, you are encouraged to read this**

⁵ On June 26, 2025, the Debtors filed the *Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing and Approving Assumption of the Restructuring Support Agreement, and (II) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 93] (the "**RSA Assumption Motion**").

⁶ Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Disclosure Statement have the meaning ascribed to such terms in the Plan. Additionally, this Disclosure Statement incorporates the rules of interpretation located in <u>Article 1.2.2</u> of the Plan. Any summary provided in this Disclosure Statement of any documents attached to this Disclosure Statement, including the Plan, is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Plan, the exhibits, and other materials referenced in the Plan, the Plan Supplement, and the documents being summarized. In the event of any inconsistencies between the terms of this Disclosure Statement and the Plan, the Plan shall govern.

Disclosure Statement and all documents attached to this Disclosure Statement in their entirety. As reflected in this Disclosure Statement, there are risks, uncertainties, and other important factors that could cause the Debtors' actual performance or achievements to be materially different from those they may project, and the Debtors undertake no obligation to update any such statement. Certain of these risks, uncertainties, and factors are described in this Disclosure Statement.

ARTICLE II. Executive Summary

From their inception in 2016 through the beginning of 2025, the Debtors grew to over 150 schools, becoming the largest owner and operator of Montessori schools in the world. The Debtors' mission was to modernize and mainstream the Montessori education movement. In addition to owning and operating the schools, the Debtors provided training and consulting services to Montessori schools around the world. The Debtors sought to offer an end-to-end experience that covers the entire lifecycle of a family at school, virtually, and at home, from birth through secondary education—enabled by next-gen, accredited Montessori instruction.

By early 2025, however, the Debtors' defaults on key secured loans resulted in the foreclosure and sale of the vast majority of the Debtors' assets and schools. Unable to secure refinancing or new capital, the Debtors determined that a chapter 11 process was the only viable path to maximize value and continue the Debtors' educational-focused goals. In the months leading up to the Petition Date, the Debtors worked with a majority of their stakeholders to formulate a value-maximizing joint pre-arranged chapter 11 plan.

Now, the Debtors commence these Chapter 11 Cases with the broad support of all or substantially all of the Debtors' major stakeholder groups. Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors entered into the Restructuring Support Agreement supported by, among others, (a) 2HR Learning, Inc. ("2HR"), a prepetition secured creditor and arms-length investor which has agreed to act as plan sponsor; (b) YYYYY, Inc. ("Five Y"), which agreed to act as the Junior DIP Lender; (c) Guidepost Global Education, Inc. ("GGE"), which has agreed to contribute certain of its assets pursuant to the Plan and to act as the Junior DIP Lender; (d) Ramandeep (Ray) Girn ("Mr. Girn") the Debtors' co-founder and former chief executive officer, and Rebecca Girn, the Debtors' co-founder and former general counsel ("Ms. Girn" and together with Mr. Girn, the "Girns"); (e) Yu Capital, LLC and its affiliated entities that represent a significant number of the Debtors' EB-5 Investors; and (f) the consenting parties thereto (with the other signatories to the RSA, the "Supporting RSA Parties"). The RSA follows significant diligence, discussions, and negotiations around a value-maximizing restructuring transaction through this prearranged Plan. Among other things, and as more fully described in the RSA, the RSA contemplates the broad support of the Plan that, despite the secured debt in the Debtors' capital structure, anticipates recoveries to unsecured creditors.

At a high level, and as further detailed in this Disclosure Statement, the Plan generally provides, among other things, for (a) the funding of \$8 million dollars in new money to fund these Chapter 11 Cases and to fund plan recoveries to the Debtors' prepetition creditors; (b) the contribution by GGE of Curriculum Assets and the Guidepost Global IP License (each as defined in the Plan); (c) the transfer of the Designated EB-5 Entities (as defined in the Plan) by the Debtors to GGE; (d) the assignment of certain executory contracts and unexpired leases to GGE; (e) the treatment of holders of allowed claims in accordance with the Plan and the priority scheme established by the Bankruptcy Code; (e) the mutual release of all claims and causes of action by and among each of the RSA Supporting Parties; and (f) the reorganization of the Debtors by retiring, cancelling, extinguishing and/or discharging the Debtors'

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⁷ GGE is an affiliated entity of Learn Capital, LLC.

prepetition equity interests or its designee(s) and issuing new equity interests in the reorganized debtor(s) to 2HR.

THE DEBTORS BELIEVE THAT THE TRANSACTIONS, COMPROMISES, AND SETTLEMENTS CONTEMPLATED BY THE PLAN ARE FAIR AND EQUITABLE, MAXIMIZE THE VALUE OF THE DEBTORS' ESTATES, AND MAXIMIZE RECOVERIES TO HOLDERS OF CLAIMS. FOR THE REASON DESCRIBED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, THE DEBTORS STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU VOTE TO ACCEPT THE PLAN.

ARTICLE III. Questions and Answers Regarding this Disclosure Statement and the Plan

A. What is chapter 11?

Chapter 11 is the principal business reorganization chapter of the Bankruptcy Code. In addition to permitting debtor rehabilitation, chapter 11 promotes equality of treatment for creditors and similarly situated equity interest holders, subject to the priority of distributions prescribed by the Bankruptcy Code.

The commencement of a chapter 11 case creates an estate that comprises all of the legal and equitable interests of the debtor as of the date the chapter 11 case is commenced. The Bankruptcy Code provides that the debtor may continue to operate its business and remain in possession of its property as a "debtor in possession."

Consummating a chapter 11 plan is the principal objective of a chapter 11 case. A bankruptcy court's confirmation of a plan binds the debtor, any person acquiring property under the plan, any creditor or equity interest holder of the debtor, and any other person or entity, as may be ordered by the bankruptcy court. Subject to certain limited exceptions, the order issued by a bankruptcy court confirming a plan provides for the treatment of the debtor's liabilities in accordance with the terms of the confirmed plan.

B. Why are the Debtors sending me this Disclosure Statement?

The Debtors are seeking to obtain Bankruptcy Court approval of the Plan. Before soliciting acceptances of the Plan, section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code requires the Debtors to prepare a disclosure statement containing adequate information of a kind, and in sufficient detail, to enable a hypothetical reasonable investor to make an informed judgment regarding acceptance of the Plan and to share such Disclosure Statement with all Holders of Claims whose votes on the Plan are being solicited. This Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with these requirements.

C. Am I entitled to vote on the Plan?

Your ability to vote on the Plan, and your rights, if any, to distribution under the Plan, depend on what type of Claim you hold and whether you held that Claim as of the Voting Record Date. Each category of Holders of Claims or Interests, as set forth in Article 2 and Article 3 of the Plan pursuant to sections 1122(a) and 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, is referred to as a "Class." Each category of Holders of Claims and Interests, pursuant to sections 1122(a) and 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, is referred to as a "Class." Each Class's respective voting status is set forth in Article 2 of the Plan and Article 2 of this Disclosure Statement and is also provided in the chart below.

Class Claims and Interests	Status	Voting Rights
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Class	Claims and Interests	Status	Voting Rights
	Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender		
Class 1:	Claim	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 2:	WTI Secured Lender Claim	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 3	CN Note Claims	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 4:	Other Secured Claims	Unimpaired	Deemed to Accept; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 5:	Non-Tax Priority Claims	Unimpaired	Deemed to Accept; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 6:	General Unsecured Claims	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 7:	Intercompany Claims	Impaired	Deemed to Reject; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 8:	Equity	Impaired	Deemed to Reject; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 9:	Subsidiary Equity Interests	Unimpaired	Deemed to Accept; Not Entitled to Vote

All Claims and Interests are classified in the Classes set forth below in accordance with sections 1122 and 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code. A Claim or an Interest, or any portion thereof, is classified in a particular Class only to the extent that any portion of such Claim or Interest qualifies within the description of that Class and is classified in other Classes to the extent that any portion of such Claim or Interest qualifies within the description of such other Classes. A Claim or an Interest is also classified in a particular Class for the purpose of receiving distributions under the Plan only to the extent that such Claim or Interest is an Allowed Claim or Allowed Interest in that Class and has not been paid, released, or otherwise satisfied prior to the Effective Date.

All of the potential Classes for the Debtors are set forth herein. Such groupings shall not affect any Debtor's status as a separate legal Entity, change the organizational structure of the Debtors' business enterprise, constitute a change of control of any Debtor for any purpose, cause a merger or consolidation of any legal Entities, or cause the transfer of any assets, and, except as otherwise provided by or permitted under the Plan, the Debtors shall continue to exist as separate legal Entities after the Effective Date.

D. What will I receive from the Debtors if the Plan is consummated?

A summary of the anticipated recovery to Holders of Claims or Interests under the Plan is set forth in <u>Article VII.B</u> of this Disclosure Statement. Any estimates of Claims or Interests in this Disclosure Statement may vary from the final amounts allowed by the Bankruptcy Court. Your ability to receive distributions under the Plan depends upon the ability of the Debtors to obtain Confirmation of the Plan and meet the conditions necessary to consummate the Plan. Further explanation on this topic can be found in Article IX of this Disclosure Statement.

THE PROJECTED RECOVERIES SET FORTH HEREIN ARE ESTIMATES ONLY AND THEREFORE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBTORS' CLASSIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF CLAIMS AND INTERESTS, REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE ENTIRE PLAN.

E. What will I receive from the Debtors if I hold an Allowed Administrative Claim, Professional Fee Claim, or a Priority Tax Claim?

In accordance with section 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, Administrative Claims, Professional Fee Claims, and Priority Tax Claims have not been classified and, thus, are excluded from the Classes of

Claims and Interests set forth in <u>Article 2</u> of the Plan. A description of these Claims and their treatment is included in <u>Article 3.2</u> and <u>Article 3.3</u> of the Plan and <u>Article VII.A</u> of this Disclosure Statement.

F. Are any regulatory approvals required to consummate the Plan?

At this time, the Debtors are evaluating which, if any, regulatory approvals are required to consummate the Plan. To the extent any such regulatory approvals or other authorizations, consents, rulings, or documents are necessary to implement and effectuate the Plan, however, it is a condition precedent to the Effective Date that they be obtained.

G. What happens to my recovery if the Plan is not confirmed or does not go effective?

In the event that the Plan is not confirmed or does not become effective, there is no assurance that the Debtors will be able to reorganize their business. It is possible that any alternative plan, if one could be confirmed, may provide Holders of Claims with less than they would have received pursuant to the Plan. The Debtors believe that a liquidation under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code would lead to inferior recoveries for Holders of Claims. For a more detailed description of the consequences of an extended chapter 11 case or a liquidation scenario, see Article IX.E of this Disclosure Statement and the Liquidation Analysis attached hereto as Exhibit C.

H. If the Plan provides that I get a distribution, do I get it upon Confirmation or when the Plan goes effective, and what is meant by "Confirmation," "Effective Date," and "Consummation?"

"Confirmation" of the Plan refers to approval of the Plan by the Bankruptcy Court. Confirmation of the Plan does not guarantee that you will receive the distribution indicated under the Plan. After Confirmation of the Plan by the Bankruptcy Court, there are conditions that need to be satisfied or waived so that the Plan can go effective. Initial distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims will only be made on the date the Plan becomes effective—the "Effective Date"—or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, as specified in the Plan. "Consummation" of the Plan refers to the occurrence of the Effective Date. See Articles VII.N of this Disclosure Statement for a discussion of conditions precedent to Consummation of the Plan and the Debtors' means for implementation of the Plan.

I. What are the sources of Cash and other consideration required to fund the Plan?

As described in <u>Article 4</u> of the Plan and <u>Article VI.B</u> of this Disclosure Statement, after the Effective Date, the Disbursing Agent will fund distributions under the Plan from (a) Plan Consideration and (b) Cash-on-Hand, all in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

J. Is there potential litigation related to the Plan?

Parties in interest may object to the approval of this Disclosure Statement and may object to Confirmation of the Plan, which objections potentially could give rise to litigation. In the event that it becomes necessary to confirm the Plan over the rejection of certain Classes, the Debtors may seek confirmation of the Plan notwithstanding the dissent of such rejecting Classes. The Bankruptcy Court may confirm the Plan pursuant to the "cramdown" provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, which allows the Bankruptcy Court to confirm a plan that has been rejected by an impaired Class if it determines that the Plan satisfies section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

K. How will the preservation of the Causes of Action impact my recovery under the Plan?

The Plan provides for the retention of all Causes of Action other than those that are expressly waived, relinquished, exculpated, released, compromised, or settled, as described in greater detail in <u>Article 4.11</u> of the Plan. The preservation and retention, or compromise or waiver, of Causes of Action pursuant to the Plan will not reduce recoveries that would otherwise be available to Holders of Allowed Claims under the Plan, nor would alternative treatment of Causes of Action lead to improved recoveries for Holders of Allowed Claims under the Plan.

L. Will there be releases and exculpations granted to parties in interest under the Plan?

Yes, the Plan contains certain releases, exculpation, and injunctions, as set forth in <u>Article 10</u> of the Plan and <u>Article VII.H</u> of this Disclosure Statement. At the Combined Hearing, the Debtors will present evidence to demonstrate the basis for and propriety of the release and exculpation provisions, including that the release, exculpation, and injunction provisions in the Plan are necessary and appropriate and meet the requisite legal standard promulgated by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.

With respect to the Third-Party Releases (which provide for releases of non-debtor third parties), the Plan provides a mechanism for Holders of Claims and Interests to "opt-out" of granting such releases. Holders of Claims or Interests who are entitled to vote have the option to opt out of the Third-Party Releases. However, Holders of Claims or Interests who vote to accept or reject the Plan but do not opt out of the Third-Party Releases in the Plan will be deemed as consenting to the Third-Party Releases contained in Article 10.3 of the Plan and will be a "Releasing Party" (as defined in the Plan and provided below). Holders of Claims and Interests who are not entitled to vote on the Plan also have the option for opting out of the Third-Party Releases by completing an Opt-Out Form. Notwithstanding the foregoing, and for the avoidance of doubt, Holders of Claims or Interests who abstain from voting or submitting an Opt-Out Form, as applicable (i.e., remain silent) will be deemed to have consented to or bound by the Third-Party Releases.

Importantly, the Plan includes the following parties in the definition of "Released Parties": means each of, and in each case in their capacity as such: (a) the Debtors; (b) the Reorganized Debtors; (c) 2HR Learning, Inc., including without limitation in its capacities as Plan Sponsor; (d) YYYYY, LLC, including without limitation in its capacity as Senior DIP Lender; (e) Guidepost Global, including without limitation in its capacity as Junior DIP Lender; (f) Learn Capital, LLC; (g) Yu Capital; (h) WTI; (i) Girn; (j) Venn; (k) the Releasing Parties; (l) all Holders of Claims or Interests who do not affirmatively opt out of the releases provided by this Plan; (m) each current and former Affiliates of each Entity in clause (a) through the following clause (l); and each Related Party of each Entity in clause (a) through (l); provided that, in each case, an Entity shall not be a Released Party if it: (x) elects to opt out of the releases contained in Article 10.3 hereof or (y) timely objects to the releases contained in Article 10.3 hereof and such objection is not resolved before Confirmation

The Plan includes the following parties in the definition of "Releasing Parties": "(a) the Debtors; (b) the Reorganized Debtors; (c) 2HR Learning, Inc., including without limitation in its capacities as Plan Sponsor; (d) YYYYY, LLC, including without limitation in its capacity as Senior DIP Lender; (e) Guidepost Global including without limitation in its capacity as Junior DIP Lender; (f) Learn Capital, LLC; (g) Yu Capital; (h) WTI; (i) Girn; (j) Venn; (k) all Holders of Claims or Interests that vote to accept or reject this Plan and who do not affirmatively opt out of the releases by timely completing and submitting the Opt-Out Form before the Voting Deadline; (l) all Holders of Claims or Interests that are deemed to accept or reject this Plan and who do not affirmatively

opt out of the releases by timely completing and submitting the Opt-Out Form before the Voting Deadline; (m) all Holders of Claims or Interests who abstain from voting on this Plan and who do not affirmatively opt out of the releases by timely completing and submitting the Opt-Out Form before the Voting Deadline; (n) current and former Affiliates of each entity in clause (a) through the following clause (m) for which such Entity is legally entitled to bind such Affiliates to the releases contained in this Plan under applicable Law or that have otherwise received proper notice of this Plan; and (o) each Related Party of each Entity in clause (a) through this clause (m) for which such Entity is legally entitled to bind such Related Party to the releases contained in this Plan under applicable Law or that have otherwise received proper notice of this Plan; provided that, in each case, an Entity shall not be a Releasing Party if it: (x) elects to opt out of the releases contained in Article 10.3 hereof or (y) timely objects to the releases contained in Article 10.3 hereof and such objection is not resolved before Confirmation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, and for the avoidance of doubt, no party shall be a Releasing Party to the extent that such party did not receive proper notice and service of the Opt-Out Form."

The Plan also includes the following parties in the definition of "Related Parties": "(a) such Entity's current and former Affiliates and (b) such Entity's and such Entity's current and former Affiliates' directors, managers, officers, members of any Governing Body, equity holders (regardless of whether such interests are held directly or indirectly), affiliated investment funds or investment vehicles, managed accounts or funds, predecessors, successors, assigns (whether by operation of Law or otherwise), direct or indirect parent entities and/or subsidiaries, current, former, and future associated entities, managed or advised entities, accounts or funds, partners, limited partners, general partners, principals, members, management companies, fund advisors or managers, fiduciaries, employees, agents (including any disbursing agent), financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, consultants, investment bankers, representatives, and other professionals."

M. What is the deadline to vote on the Plan?

The deadline to submit votes to accept or reject the Plan, and complete and submit the Opt-Out Form (the "Voting Deadline"), is August 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time).

N. How do I vote for or against the Plan?

Detailed instructions regarding how to vote on the Plan are included with the ballot distributed to Holders of Claims entitled to vote on the Plan (the "Ballot"). For your vote to be counted, the Ballot containing your vote must be properly completed and executed as directed, and delivered as directed, so that it is actually received by the Debtors' Claims and Noticing Agent, Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC d/b/a Verita Global ("Verita," or the "Claims and Noticing Agent") on or before the Voting Deadline of August 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time).

Certain procedures will be used to collect and tabulate votes on the Plan, as summarized in <u>Article VIII</u> of this Disclosure Statement. Readers should carefully read the voting instructions in <u>Article VIII</u> of this Disclosure Statement.

Under the Debtors' Plan, all Holders of Claims or Interests in Classes 4, 5, and 9 are unimpaired, as they will be paid in full or, if applicable, entitled to retain their collateral or their Claims or Interests, as applicable. As a result, all holders of Claims in Classes 4, 5, and 9 are conclusively deemed to have accepted the Plan. The Holders of Claims or Interests in Classes 7 and 8 are impaired, as they will not receive any distributions on account of their Claims or Interests and are deemed to reject the Plan, and are thus not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. The Holders of Claims in Classes 1, 2, 3, and 6 are

impaired and are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. Thus, only Holders of Claims in Classes 1, 2, 3, and 6 are entitled to vote on the Plan (each a "**Voting Class**" and collectively, the "**Voting Classes**").

O. Why is the Bankruptcy Court holding a Combined Hearing?

Section 1128(a) of the Bankruptcy Code requires the Bankruptcy Court to hold a hearing on confirmation of the Plan and recognizes that any party in interest may object to Confirmation of the Plan. All parties in interest will be served notice of the time, date, and location of the Combined Hearing once scheduled. Because the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases were administratively consolidated, and because the relief provided in the Plan affects each Debtor and Holders of Claims related to each Debtor, respectively, a combined hearing will provide the most efficient, comprehensive, and clear result for all stakeholders. The nature of the relief provided in the Plan also makes a hearing on adequacy of the Disclosure Statement and confirmation of the Plan the most efficient path to confirmation, which will be consistent with and support the recoveries intended under the Plan.

P. When is the Combined Hearing set to occur?

The Debtors will request that the Bankruptcy Court schedule the Combined Hearing for **September 3**, **2025 at 9:30 a.m.** (**prevailing Central Time**). The Combined Hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice. The Bankruptcy Court, in its discretion and prior to the Combined Hearing, may put in place additional procedures governing the Combined Hearing. Subject to section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Plan may be modified, if necessary, prior to, during, or as a result of the Combined Hearing, without further notice to parties in interest.

Objections to Confirmation of the Plan must be filed and served on the Debtors, and certain other parties, by **August 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** (**prevailing Central Time**), in accordance with any forthcoming notice of the Combined Hearing.

Q. What is the purpose of the Combined Hearing?

The purpose of the Combined Hearing is to seek final approval of this Disclosure Statement and Confirmation of the Plan. The confirmation of a plan of reorganization by a bankruptcy court binds the debtor, any issuer of securities under a plan of reorganization, any person acquiring property under a plan of reorganization, any creditor or equity interest holder of a debtor, and any other person or entity as may be ordered by the bankruptcy court in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code. Subject to certain limited exceptions, the order issued by the bankruptcy court confirming a plan of reorganization discharges a debtor from any debt that arose before the confirmation of such plan of reorganization and provides for the treatment of such debt in accordance with the terms of the confirmed plan of reorganization.

R. What is the effect of the Plan on the Debtors' ongoing business?

The Debtors are reorganizing under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. As a result, the occurrence of the Effective Date of the Plan means that the Debtors will <u>not</u> be liquidated or forced to go out of business. Following Confirmation, the Plan will be Consummated on the Effective Date, which is the date on which all conditions to Consummation have been satisfied and the Plan is declared effective by the Debtors (see <u>Article 11</u> of the Plan). On or after the Effective Date, and unless otherwise provided in the Plan, the Reorganized Debtors may operate their business and, except as otherwise provided by the Plan, may use, acquire, or dispose of property and compromise or settle any Claims, Interests, or Causes of Action without supervision or approval by the Bankruptcy Court and free of any restrictions of the Bankruptcy

Code or Bankruptcy Rules. Additionally, upon the Effective Date, all actions contemplated by the Plan will be deemed authorized and approved.

S. What is the effect of Confirmation and Consummation of the Plan?

Following Confirmation, and subject to satisfaction of each condition precedent in <u>Article 11</u> of the Plan, the Plan will be consummated on the Effective Date. Among other things, on the Effective Date, certain release, injunction, exculpation, and discharge provisions set forth in <u>Article 10</u> of the Plan will become effective. Accordingly, it is important to read the provisions contained in <u>Article 1</u> and <u>Article 10</u> of the Plan very carefully so that you understand how Confirmation and Consummation of the Plan—which effectuates such release, injunction, exculpation, and discharge provisions—will affect you and any Claim or Interest you may hold with respect to the Debtors so that you may cast your vote accordingly. These provisions are described in Article VII.H of this Disclosure Statement.

T. Will any party have significant influence over the corporate governance and operations of the Reorganized Debtors?

On the Effective Date, the current members of the Debtors' board of directors and officers shall no longer serve in any such capacity with Reorganized HGE or the Reorganized HGE Subsidiaries and shall be discharged of all duties in connection therewith. The Debtors will disclose in their Plan Supplement the identities of those individuals proposed to serve as directors and officers of Reorganized HGE, and the Reorganized HGE Subsidiaries. The deadline for the Debtors to file their Plan Supplement is August 22, 2025.

U. Who do I contact if I have additional questions with respect to this Disclosure Statement or the Plan?

The Debtors' Claims and Noticing Agent, Verita, by: (a) calling (888) 733-1431 (U.S./Canada) (toll-free), +1 (310) 751-2632 (International), (b) writing to Higher Ground Education, Inc., et al. Ballot Processing, c/o KCC dba Verita, 222 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 300, El Segundo, CA 90245 (if by first-class mail, hand delivery or overnight mail), or (c) submitting an inquiry to www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround/Inquiry (with "HGE Solicitation Inquiry" in the subject line). The Claims and Noticing Agent cannot and will not provide legal advice.

Copies of the Plan, this Disclosure Statement, and any other publicly filed documents in the Chapter 11 Cases are available upon written request to the Claims and Noticing Agent at the email address above or by downloading the exhibits and documents from the website of the Claims and Noticing Agent at www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround (free of charge) or the Bankruptcy Court's website at https://txnb.uscourts.gov/ (for a fee).

V. Do the Debtors recommend voting in favor of the Plan?

Yes. The Debtors believe that the Plan provides for better distributions and results to the Debtors' creditors and stakeholders than would otherwise result from any other available alternative. The Debtors believe that the Plan is in the best interest of the Debtors' creditors and stakeholders, and that any alternatives (to the extent they exist) would fail to realize or provide the value inherent under the Plan.

ARTICLE IV. Background and Events Leading to Chapter 11 Cases

A. Overview of the Debtors

HGE was founded in 2016 by a team of educators and business leaders, who had spent their early careers dedicated to creating and scaling LePort Education Inc., a high-quality, high-fidelity Montessori school network headquartered in Southern California. Ramandeep (Ray) Girn founded and led the Debtors as their President and Chief Executive Officer. For many years the team devoted itself to developing, testing, refining, and putting into practice the resources, systems, infrastructure, and pedagogical leadership required to achieve Montessori "at scale," and created a network of schools across the United States. HGE operated its Montessori schools under the Guidepost brand—a brand synonymous with cultivating independent children to "live a life, fully lived."

The Debtors' mission was to modernize and mainstream the Montessori education movement. In addition to owning and operating Montessori schools (the "Schools"), the Debtors provided accredited teacher training and licensed content to other Montessori schools. In addition, in 2020, HGE acquired the Altitude platform, a learning management system that HGE believed could be used to operate Guidepost classrooms across the network. Following rapid expansion as the United States emerged from COVID-19 lockdowns, the Debtors offered an end-to-end experience that covered the entire lifecycle of a family at school—virtually and at home—from birth through secondary education, enabled by next-gen, accredited Montessori instruction and programming.

Following the early success of the schools in the United States, HGE sought to expand its mission, dedication to education, and Montessori platform to China, Canada, and countries in Europe. This foreign expansion began in 2019 through the opening of wholly owned schools (the "Foreign Schools") in Hong Kong and mainland China and the formation of strategic partnerships with parties that wanted to utilize HGE's brand, programming, and pedagogy.

By the fall of 2024, the Debtors were the largest owner and operator of Montessori schools in the world with over 150 schools in operations and plans for the construction and opening of dozens more schools. These schools were located across the United States, with locations in, among other states, Texas, North Carolina, California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Washington, Maryland, Florida, Michigan, Alabama, Indiana, Ohio, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, and Virginia. In addition to its core campus network, the Debtors offered virtual school, home school and teacher training, and also licensed its content to independent school partners.

B. The Debtors' Corporate Structure and Operations

Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors operated the Schools through various structures—all managed by centralized operations at HGE. HGE is the ultimate corporate parent company of the Debtors. HGE owned, directly or indirectly, numerous Debtor and non-debtor subsidiaries that were utilized to operate and/or own the Debtors' Schools and accredited training programs. As of the Petition Date, HGE owns and operates seven (7) Schools.

The Debtors' primary business was and remains owning and operating the Schools. The Schools were either wholly owned by Debtor Guidepost A or were owned by other subsidiary entities (the "School Subsidiaries"). The School Subsidiaries were established to own, manage, and/or operate Schools in selected markets in the United States. The School Subsidiaries are either wholly owned by Guidepost A or were majority-owned by Guidepost A with the minority owners consisting of limited interests owned

by non-U.S. person investors ("**EB-5 Investors**") under the Employment Based Immigration Preference program, known as "EB-5" (the "**EB-5 Program**").

Further, as of the Petition Date, the Debtors owned, operated, and managed their accredited training programs at Prepared Montessorian LLC ("**Prepared Montessorian**") and Prepared Montessorian TT LLC ("**Prepared TT**"),⁸ Prepared Montessorian's former wholly owned subsidiary. The Debtors were known for their pedagogy and innovative Montessori programming that was utilized by Montessori educators within and outside of the Schools.

In furtherance of their mission, the Debtors offered two Montessori programs and brands: the Guidepost Montessori brand for children in their early years (generally infant through pre-kindergarten) and Guidepost Academy for children and young adolescents (generally grades kindergarten through eighth grade). The Debtors' primary focus, however, was the early childhood education space.

In 2016 and 2017, the Debtors started with a small number of Schools and at the end of each calendar year, maintained the following number of Schools:

Year Ending	Number of Schools
2018	12
2019	27
2020	60
2021	81
2022	101
2023	132
2024	150
Petition Date	7

C. The Debtors' Capital Structure

Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors entered into various financing arrangements to funds the Debtors' Schools and general operations. As of the Petition Date and following the Foreclosures (which are discussed in detail below), the Debtors maintained the following funded debt obligations:⁹

Debt	Approx. Amount Outstanding ¹⁰	
Secured Funded Debt		
Bridge CN-3 Notes	\$4,800,000	
WTI Loan Agreements	\$4,680,970	
CN Notes	\$117,837,932	
Total Secured Funded Debt	\$127,318,902	

⁸ Prepared TT is not a debtor in these Chapter 11 Cases.

A detailed overview of the Debtors' capital structure is set forth in the *Declaration of Jonathan McCarthy in Support of the First Day Motions* [Docket No. 15].

The Approximate Amount Outstanding reflects the estimated amount outstanding as of the Petition Date according to the Debtors' books and records. These numbers are a summary and are not intended to reflect the actual amounts outstanding as of the Petition Date. The Debtors continue to reconcile their books and records and reserve all rights as to the correct amounts of these funded debt obligations.

Debt	Approx. Amount Outstanding ¹⁰
Unsecured Fu	unded Debt
Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note	\$410,350
NRTC Promissory Note	\$289,833
Yu FICB Promissory Notes	\$1,182,387
YuATI Promissory Notes	\$2,200,000
YuHGEA Loan Agreement	\$57,424
Yu Capital Loan	\$327,858
LFI Unsecured Notes	\$12,454,566
Total Unsecured Funded Debt	\$16,922,418
Total Funded Debt	\$144,241,320

1. The Secured WTI Loans

HGE, Guidepost A, Prepared Montessorian, Prepared TT, and Terra Firma Services LLC, ("Terra Firma," and with HGE, Guidepost A, Prepared Montessorian, and Prepared TT, the "WTI Borrowers") are parties to several prepetition financing arrangements with Venture Lending & Leasing IX, Inc., ("Fund IX") and WTI Fund X, Inc., ("Fund X" together with Fund IX, "WTI"). Specifically, WTI and the WTI Borrowers entered into (a) the Loan and Secured Agreement, dated February 19, 2021, by and between Fund IX and the Borrowers in the original principal amount of \$12 million (as may have been amended, supplemented, restated, and modified from time to time, the "Fund IX Loan Agreement"); (b) that certain Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of November 8, 2023, between Fund X and the WTI Borrowers in the original principal amount of \$15 million (as may have been amended, supplemented, restated, and modified from time to time, the "Fund X Loan Agreement," and with the Fund IX Loan Agreement, the "WTI Loan Agreements").

To secure the WTI Borrowers' obligations under the WTI Loan Agreements, each Borrower granted to WTI a blanket security interests in substantially all of such WTI Borrowers' personal property assets, including certain intellectual property owned by HGE and Terra Firma (collectively, the "WTI Collateral"). WTI's security interests in the WTI Collateral were perfected by various UCC-1 Financing Statements and Intellectual Property Security Agreements.

As such, WTI are secured by substantially all of the property of the WTI Borrowers, subject to certain perfected security interests in specific assets held by other secured creditors. Pursuant to that Intercreditor Agreement, dated November 8, 2023, between Fund IX and Fund X, the parties agreed that the liens of WTI shall be of equal rank and priority and all of the rights, interests, and obligations under the WTI Loan Agreements and related loan documents shall be shared by WTI *pro rata*.

As of the Petition Date and following the Foreclosures, WTI maintains a perfected, secured claim against the WTI Borrowers in the approximate amount of \$4,680,970 (due to the fact that WTI did not foreclose on all of the WTI Collateral).

2. The Secured CN Notes

To further fund the Debtors' Schools and business operations, the Debtors entered into that Note Purchase Notice and Note Purchase Agreement, dated May 31, 2024 (as may have been amended, supplemented, restated, and modified from time to time, the "NPA") whereby the Debtors were authorized to issue and sell one or more promissory notes in a first series (the "CN 1 Notes"), one or more promissory notes in a second series (the "CN-2 Notes"), and one or more promissory notes in a third series (the "CN-3 Notes," and with the CN-1 Notes and the CN-2 Notes, the "CN Notes"). The CN Notes are secured by a blanket

lien on all HGE assets (the "CN Notes Collateral") pursuant to the Security Agreement, dated May 31, 2024 between HGE and Learn Capital Venture Partners IV, L.P., the Collateral Agent for all notes issued under the NPA (the "NPA Collateral Agent"), and any security interests in the CN Notes Collateral (other than as expressly provided for the Bridge CN-3 Notes (as defined below)) are expressly subordinated to WTI's liens in the CN Notes Collateral. The NPA Collateral Agent perfected the CN Notes security interest in the CN Notes Collateral pursuant to a filed UCC-1 Financing Statement.

Upon an event of repayment of the CN Notes, the NPA provides that holders of the CN-3 Notes are entitled to receive a recovery in full before any payment may be made to holders of the CN-2 Notes and CN 1 Notes. Once all holders CN-3 Notes have been repaid in full, holders of CN-2 Notes are then entity to receive a recovery in full before any payment may be made to holders of CN-1 Notes.

Pursuant to the NPA, the CN Notes convert into Conversion Shares upon the first to occur of (a) the consent of the Majority Note Holders or (b) the date that is four months following the date of the Initial Closing (provided, that (i) such date may be extended two times by up to three months each and/or (ii) such conversion may be waived entirely, in each case, with the consent and at the sole discretion of the Majority Note Holders). Learn Capital, and its affiliated entities, are the Majority Note Holders for the CN Notes and have waived any conversion of the CN Notes into the Conversion Shares.

As of the Petition Date, there is approximately \$43,014,365 in CN-3 Notes, \$41,304,320, in CN-2 Notes, and \$33,566,465 in CN-1 Notes outstanding.

3. The Secured Bridge CN-3 Loans

Beginning on and after January 15, 2025, the Debtors and certain lenders entered into the series CN-3 convertible promissory notes (the "**Bridge CN-3 Notes**") in the aggregate principal amount of \$4,800,000 (the "**Bridge CN-3 Loans**"), plus interest, fees and costs, and including any premiums, expenses, indemnity, and reimbursement obligations accrued thereunder and all other fees and expenses (including fees and expenses of attorneys and advisors) as provided therein, issued pursuant to the NPA. The Bridge CN-3 Notes are collateralized by a priming lien over the WTI Loan Agreements in the principal amount of up to \$5,000,000, in favor of the NPA Collateral Agent. WTI consented to this treatment pursuant to that Closing Conditions to Note Purchase Agreement and Series E Financing #2, effective February 5, 2025, between HGE, WTI, Learn Capital, Learn Capital Special Opportunities Fund XXXVII, LLC, and 2HR Learning, Inc.

As of the Petition Date, \$4,800,000 of Bridge CN-3 Notes remained outstanding and are broken out by the Lenders, as follows:

Lender	Amount	
Ramandeep Girn	\$500,000	
Learn Capital Venture Partners III, L.P.	\$2,300,000	
2HR Learning, Inc.	\$1,000,000	
Learn Capital IV Special Opportunities X, LLC	\$1,000,000	
Total	\$4,800,000	

4. Learn Capital Debt

Learn Capital Special Opportunities Fund XXXVII LLC ("Learn Fund XXXVII") and HGE, Guidepost FIC A LLC, Guidepost FIC B LLC, Guidepost FIC C LLC, HGE FIC D LLC, HGE FIC E LLC, HGE FIC LLC, HGE FIC M LLC, HGE FIC N LLC,

Guidepost The Woodlands LLC, Guidepost Goodyear LLC, and LePort Emeryville LLC, as debtors (collectively, the "Learn Borrowers") are party to that Second Amended and Restated Secured Convertible Promissory Note, dated March 13, 2025 (as the same has been amended, supplemented, restated and otherwise modified from time to time, the "Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note"), in the original principal amount of \$3,800,000.00. The Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note is secured by that Second Amended and Restated Security Agreement, dated March 13, 2025, between Learn Fund XXXVII and the Learn Borrowers. Prior to foreclosure, the Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note was secured, up to the secured amount for each School set forth in the Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note, by a first lien security interest in substantially all of the assets of the following Schools (the "Learn Fund XXXVII Collateral"):

Guidepost FIC A LLC Guidepost Montessori at Spruce Tree S130,000 Guidepost FIC B LLC Guidepost Montessori at Timber Ridge S80,000 Guidepost FIC B LLC Guidepost Montessori at Wicker Park S20,000 Guidepost FIC B LLC Guidepost Montessori at Foothill Ranch S20,000 Guidepost FIC C LLC Guidepost Montessori at Foothill Ranch S20,000 Guidepost FIC C LLC Guidepost Montessori at Goodyear Guidepost Goodyear LLC Guidepost Montessori at Goodyear Guidepost The Woodlands LLC Guidepost Montessori at The Woodlands Guidepost The Woodlands LLC Guidepost Montessori at Flower Mound Guidepost Montessori at Flower Mound Guidepost Montessori at Hollywood Beach Guidepost Montessori at Hollywood Beach Guidepost Montessori at Peoria Guidepost Montessori at Peoria Guidepost Montessori at Plum Canyon Guidepost Montessori at Plum Canyon Guidepost Montessori at Burr Ridge Guidepost Montessori at Burr Ridge Guidepost Montessori at Burr Ridge Guidepost Montessori at Downtown Naperville Guidepost Montessori at Evanston FIG FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Evanston Guidepost Montessori at Evanston FIG FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Baymeadows FIO,000 FIG FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Baymeadows FIO,000 FIG FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Baymeadows FIO,000 FIG FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Baymeadows FIO,000 FIG FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Rendall Park FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Rendall Park FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Paradise Valley FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Paradise Valley FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Paradise Valley FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Downtown Boston FIG FIC I LLC Guidepost Montessori at Paradise Valley	Borrower	School	Secured
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HGE FIC L LLCGuidepost Montessori at Kendall Park\$20,000HGE FIC L LLCGuidepost Montessori at Paradise Valley\$30,000HGE FIC L LLCGuidepost Montessori at Downtown Boston\$20,000	HGE FIC I LLC	Guidepost Montessori at Baymeadows	\$20,000
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HGE FIC L LLC Guidepost Montessori at Legacy \$20,000	HGE FIC L LLC		
HGE FIC L LLC Guidepost Montessori at Old Town \$30,000			
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HGE FIC L LLC Guidepost Montessori at Lynnwood \$30,000		•	
HGE FIC L LLC Guidepost Montessori at San Rafael \$20,000		·	
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HGE FIC M LLC Guidepost Montessori at Leavenworth \$20,000		•	
HGE FIC M LLC Guidepost Montessori at Celebration Park \$20,000		1	·
HGE FIC N LLC Guidepost Montessori at Celebration 1 ark \$20,000			
HGE FIC N LLC Guidepost Montessori at North Wales \$20,000			
LePort Emeryville LLC Guidepost Montessori at Emeryville \$320,000			

Learn Fund XXXVII's security interests in the Learn Fund XXXVII Collateral were perfected by UCC-1 Financing Statements. As of the Petition Date, approximately \$419,351 remains outstanding under the Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note, which the Debtors consider unsecured due to either the Foreclosures or subsequent sale of the Learn Fund XXXVII Collateral.

5. The Yu Capital Loans

Yu Capital, LLC ("Yu Capital") and its affiliates entered into a number of project specific loans with the Debtors that were secured by specific assets, which Yu Capital or its affiliates foreclosed upon. As such, the Debtors consider all of the loans between the Debtors and Yu Capital and its affiliates to be unsecured. The unsecured Yu Capital Loans, include the following:

Yu Capital Entity	Unsecured Amount
YuHGE A LLC	\$57,425
YuATI LLC	\$2,200,000
YuFIC B, LLC	\$1,182,387
NTRC Equity Partners, LLC	\$289,833
Yu Capital, LLC	\$327,858.63

6. Unsecured LFI Notes

Guidepost A and Guidepost Financial Partner, LLC ("**LFI**") entered into certain unsecured promissory notes (as the same has been amended, supplemented, restated and otherwise modified from time to time, the "**LFI Notes**"). As of the Petition Date, there is approximately \$12,454,566 outstanding under the LFI Notes. The LFI Notes are unsecured loans that were utilized by Guidepost A to fund the startup costs and rental security deposits for certain Schools (the "LFI Schools").11 Pursuant to the LFI Notes, if the LFI Schools achieved a certain level of profitability, then Guidepost A was required to pay a percentage of such profits to LFI (the "**LFI Profit Share**"). As of the Petition Date, the Debtors only made limited LFI Profit Share payments to LFI, and there is approximately \$12.4 million outstanding under the LFI Notes

D. The Debtors' Equity Structure

1. Common Stock

HGE is authorized to issue 90 million shares of common stock at \$0.00001 par value per share, consisting of 80 million shares of Class A common stock ("Class A") and 10,000,000 shares of Class B common stock ("Class B"). ¹² As of the Petition Date, there are approximately 22,980,559 Class A shares and 10,000,000 Class B shares issued and outstanding.

2. **Preferred Stock**

HGE is authorized to issue 9 million shares of Series Seed Preferred Stock ("Series Seed"), 12 million shares of Series B Preferred Stock ("Series B"), 15 million shares of Series C Preferred Stock ("Series C"), and 12 million shares of Series D Preferred Stock ("Series D"). All classes of preferred stock have a par value of \$0.00001. As of the Petition Date, there are approximately 8,671,641 Series Seed, 3,830,656 Series B, 10,601,355 Series C, and 8,781,030 Series D shares issued and outstanding

The "LFI Schools" consist of the following Schools: Katy, Parker, Schaumburg, Evanston, Briarwood (Deerbrook), Edgewater, Champlin, and Downers Grove.

Learn Capital, Mr. Girn, and Venn own more than five percent (5%) of the equity in HGE.

3. Common Stock and Preferred Stock Rights

Each holder of a Class A share is entitled to one vote on all matters subject to vote and each holder of a Class B share is entitled to ten votes on each matter subject to vote. Dividends are at the discretion of the Board but may not be declared without both Class A and Class B sharing in the dividend equally. Each share of Class B, at the option of the holder, may at any time be converted into one fully paid and nonassessable share of Class A.

With the exception of dividends on shares of Class A common stock payable in shares of Class A common stock, no dividends can be declared to the common stockholders without the holders of preferred stock sharing equally in the dividend. Each holder of outstanding shares of preferred stock is entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of whole shares of Class A common stock into which the shares of preferred stock held by such holder are convertible as of the record date. In general, preferred stockholders vote together with the holders of common stock as a single class on an as-converted basis.

Each share of preferred shares may be converted, at the option of a majority interest in such series without the payment of additional considerations, into the number of fully paid and nonassessable shares of common Class A as is determined by dividing the original issue price for such series of preferred stock by the conversion price in effect the time of conversion. Original issue price means \$0.06 per share for the Series Seed, \$2.566879 per share for Series B, \$2.8606 for Series C, and \$4.275758 for Series D. Conversion price is the original issue price pertaining to such series of preferred stock. The conversion rate is subject to adjustments to reflect stock dividends, stock splits, and other events. Further, preferred stock shares are not subject to redemption from HGE.

For distributions of assets upon liquidation, each series of preferred shares have a 2x liquidation preference and rank senior to Class A and Class B common shares. Dividends and distributions of assets upon liquidation will be paid to preferred shareholders based on the conversion formula as if the holder's shares had been converted into Class A common stock

4. Subsidiary Equity Structure

As mentioned above, the School Subsidiaries are either wholly owned by Guidepost A or majority-owned by Guidepost A with the minority owners consisting of the EB-5 Investors. Regardless of ownership structure, HGE was the named "Manager" for each of the School Subsidiaries with broad power and authority.

Pursuant to the EB-5 Program, EB-5 Investors may be able to gain permanent residence in the United States by investing the required minimum amount of capital in a domestic commercial enterprise that will create a specified minimum number of full-time jobs.¹³ The Debtors' EB-5 Program was related to the opening of specific Schools and the job creation coming from those Schools. Through the EB-5 Program and from 2017 to the Petition Date, the Debtors raised approximately \$50 million from EB-5 Investors, with the proceeds are being used for general purposes.

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In particular, the following Debtor entities utilized EB-5 Investors: Guidepost FIC B LLC; Guidepost FIC C LLC; HGE FIC D LLC; HGE FIC E LLC; HGE FIC F LLC; HGE FIC G LLC; HGE FIC I LLC; HGE FIC LLC; HGE FIC D LLC; Guidepost Birmingham LLC; Guidepost Carmel LLC; Guidepost Goodyear LLC; Guidepost Las Colinas LLC; Guidepost Muirfield Village LLC; Guidepost Richardson LLC; Guidepost St Robert LLC; Guidepost The Woodlands LLC; Guidepost Walled Lake LLC; and LePort Emeryville LLC (collectively, the "EB-5 School Subsidiaries").

The Debtors' EB-5 Program is generally split into two distinct groups: (a) EB-5 Investors that designated Yu Capital as their representative and "Associate Manager" (the "Yu Capital EB-5 Investors") for those EB-5 School Subsidiaries and (b) EB-5 Investors that designated EB5AN Affiliate Network, LLC ("EB5AN") as their representative and "Special Manager" (the "EB5AN EB-5 Investors") for those EB-5 School Subsidiaries. Yu Capital EB-5 Investors maintained a Series B membership interest in their respective EB-5 School Subsidiaries and EB5AN EB-5 Investors maintained a Class B membership interest in their respective EB-5 School Subsidiaries (collectively, the "Limited EB-5 Interests"). The Limited EB-5 Interests provided for limited management and consent rights with respect to the operations of the EB-5 School Subsidiaries. The Limited EB-5 Interests did, however, provide for a liquidation preference to the Limited EB-5 Interests compared to that of Guidepost A's ownership interests.

E. Significant Prepetition Events Leading to the Chapter 11 Cases

There were various events and factors that lead to the commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases. Simply put, the Debtors have been unable to maintain and generate sufficient liquidity to fund operations. Since 2020, the Debtors have raised over \$335 million in funding through various debt and equity instruments, including EB-5 capital and lease incentives. The Debtors utilized these proceeds for the expansion and opening of the Debtors' Schools, development of their educational platform, and the maintenance of the same.

As reflected in the Debtors' financial statements, the Debtors' business has never had positive cash flows from operations—resulting in the continuous need for external funding. In the past year, following a period of significant operational challenges and underperformance relative to budget, the Debtors had very limited sources of external funding. As such, recent cash fundings were from either multiple short-term financing arrangements or the sale of certain School assets.

Indeed, as the various efforts to raise third-party capital (or complete the sale of company assets) did not achieve the desired results, the Debtors were continually forced to go to their current investors and lenders to obtain necessary funding, primarily Learn, which the Debtors repeatedly sought funding from. In addition to the Debtors repeated reliance on Learn, the Debtors also obtained funding from CEA, 2HR, and Mr. Girn to meet extremely short-term operating requirements, including payroll and rent.

Unfortunately, even with multiple short-term commitments from existing lenders and investors, the Debtors ran out of time and capital necessary to effectuate any transaction or reorganization that would have left the Schools under the Debtors' ownership. Because of this, the Debtors focused their efforts on maintaining as many Schools as a going concern, whether owned by the Debtors, the Debtors' secured lenders, or other operators. For a number of unprofitable Schools, the Debtors worked with their landlords to find new operators to ensure that employees remained employed, and students and families could continue to depend on the Schools' continued operations.

1. Financial and Management Issues

The Debtors have experienced massive operating losses that significantly outpaced revenues—cumulating in operating losses of over \$440 million in the past five years. For instance, in the fall of 2024, the Debtors operated several Schools that were incurring losses of over \$50,000 per month. The Debtors had also committed to a large development pipeline that included over 20 additional campus

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LePort Emeryville LLC also contains EB-5 Investors but such EB-5 Investors do not designate an associate/special manager and do not have any rights requiring their consent to file LePort Emeryville LLC's Chapter 11 Case.

openings, with projects generally expected to require \$1,000,000 or more in future capital to reach breakeven for these planned openings.

Exacerbating the School-level losses were the substantial monthly corporate G&A expenses in excess of \$2,500,000. Given the fact that the Debtors' operations consumed significantly more cash than they generated, the Debtors undertook a number of restructuring initiatives to improve financial performance, to boost liquidity and right-size their businesses. Ultimately, those initiatives did not yield sufficient financial changes in the necessary timeframe to prevent the Foreclosures and avoid these Chapter 11 Cases.

In addition, beginning in 2024 and continuing in 2025 the Debtors experienced significant changes with respect to their Board and management resulting from general disagreements over strategy, growth, capital raising, and leadership. While certain Board directors wanted the Debtors to transition to a mature, stable, and profitable operators, other directors believed the best path forward was continuing the "hyper-growth" strategy that required significant capital to fund expansion. This philosophical disagreement led to a number of changes of the Board and the Debtors' management, resulting in uncertainty regarding the Debtors' future.

At the beginning of 2025, the Board consisted of: Mr. Girn, Greg Mauro ("Mauro"), Robert Hutter ("Hutter"), Zheng Yu Huang ("Huang"), Matthew Bateman ("Bateman"), Jack Chorowsky ("Chorowsky"), and Jonathan McCarthy ("McCarthy"). Chorowsky served as the Board's independent director. Mr. Girn served as the Debtors' Chief Executive Officer and President, and Ms. Girn served as the Debtors' General Counsel and Secretary. This structure, however, was short-lived due to various resignations and other changes to the Board and officers.

On January 31, 2025, Matthew Bateman resigned from the Board and was not replaced by another director. On February 25, 2025, Mr. Girn and Ms. Girn resigned from all of their respective positions as officers and director of the Debtors. The Board elected Mitch Michulka ("Michulka"), the Debtors' Chief Financial Officer, and Maris Mendes ("Mendes"), the Debtors' Chief Operations Officer, to serve as the Debtors' co-Chief Executive Officers. On March 10, 2025, Chorowsky resigned from his position as independent director and his position remained unfilled until Marc Kirshbaum ("Kirshbaum") Kirshbaum's appointment. On March 28, 2025, Mauro and Hutter resigned from the Board due to Learn's foreclosure and were not replaced. On March 31, 2025, Huang resigned from the Board. At Mr. Girn's direction, Mr. Girn appointed himself to serve as a director. Mr. Girn then resigned from the Board again on April 4, 2025.

On May 18, 2025, at Learn Capital's designation and Venn's approval, Kirshbaum was elected to serve as the independent director (the "**Independent Director**"). As of the Petition Date, the Board consists of McCarthy and the Independent Director, with the Independent Director having authorized the filing of these Chapter 11 Cases.

On May 31, 2025, Michulka and Mendes, along with certain of the Debtors' other corporate employees ceased employment for the Debtors and began working for GGE. As HGE did not have any elected officers, the Independent Director asked that McCarthy accept, on an interim basis, the delegation of the

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John McCarthy is the founder and managing partner of Venn. Venn, and certain of its affiliates, is an equity holder and debt holder in HE.

Michulka, Mendes, and the other corporate employees—who are now employed by GGE—are performing work for the Debtors pursuant to a Management Services Agreement, effective as of June 1, 2025, between GGE and HGE.

duties and powers of the President and Secretary for HGE. Effective June 1, 2025, the Independent Director appointed McCarthy to serve as HGE's Interim President and Secretary, who remains in place to date.

2. Failed Prepetition Initiatives to Boost Long-Term Viability

While the Board and management issues created governance and strategic challenges, the primary cause of these Chapter 11 Cases is purely the Debtors' inability to obtain funding necessary to satisfy secured debt obligations and pay amounts owed in the ordinary course of business from continuing operations. Based on their financial performance and operational issues, the Debtors' ability to continue tapping external sources for funding became unfeasible. Without sources of capital and with continuing multimillion dollar monthly operating losses, the Debtors accelerated initiatives to lower costs and improve liquidity. These changes, however, did not result in sufficient long-term financing and operational changes that could enable the Debtors to continue as a going concern.

In the past three years, the Debtors pursued various financing, transactional, and restructuring opportunities through the engagement of three different investment bankers and marketing efforts led by the Board and Mr. Girn. The Debtors engaged Barclays Capital Inc. ("Barclays"), Rothschild & Co US Inc. ("Rothschild"), and SC&H Capital ("SC&H"), as investment bankers, to pursue various opportunities for the Debtors, including, among other things, recapitalization of existing debt; the sale of debt and/or equity instruments; the entry into new debt financing arrangements; a potential sale, merger, or other business and/or strategic combination involving the Debtors.

Specifically, Rothschild was engaged in January 2024 to facilitate an equity raise that was focused on private equity firms (particularly groups with existing education platforms), late-stage growth equity investors, and hybrid capital investors. Rothschild engaged 67 potential investors, which did not lead to any actionable results. Barclays was also retained in January 2024 to focus on new debt funding through outreach to a group of structured debt providers. Barclays engaged 38 total potential investors, with six of those investors executing non-disclosure agreements ("NDAs"). Five of those parties then engaged in management meetings and two participated in follow up sessions with the Debtors and their advisors. Unfortunately, no actionable results came from the Rothschild and Barclays engagement at that time. While these third parties provided generally positive feedback on the Debtors' brand and educational product, there were numerous cited concerns that prevented outside parties from investing, including, among other things: continuous negative cash flows and questionable path to profitability, excessive rent costs (as discussed below), large balance of debt on the balance sheet, high level costs of G&A expenses, and questions about the Debtors' management. As no third-party financing was available, the Debtors completed an insider-led financing under the NPA.

Notwithstanding, in December 2024, the Debtors re-engaged Rothschild to pursue transactions for both controlling and minority equity investors. Rothschild led the marketing process with outreach to 18 financial targets and nine strategic targets. Barclays also continued to solicit potential private equity investors for the same opportunities. From these efforts, only one party executed an NDA and no parties engaged in meaningful activities towards consummating an equity transaction. These marketing efforts also did not bring any actionable results for the same reasons as the previous marketing efforts by Rothschild and Barclays.

In February 2025, the Debtors then engaged SC&H to focus on a transaction for the sale of substantially all of the Debtors' assets, with a focus on strategic investors, financial sponsors with existing education platforms, and private equity. SC&H was also tasked with seeking debtor-in-possession financing from parties that would serve as a plan sponsor or potential buyer under a section 363 sale under the

Bankruptcy Code. SC&H performed initial outreach to 89 financial buyers, 30 strategic buyers, and four high-net worth individuals / family offices. Again, no actionable activity came from SC&H's efforts.

While Barclays, Rothschild, and SC&H were performing their marketing efforts, certain members of the Debtors' Board also engaged in direct outreach to select strategic investors through personal relationships and/or prior investments in the Debtors. Following market news that the Debtors were closing certain Schools, a number of strategic investors reached out directly to the Debtors regarding potential acquisition opportunities.

Overall, the Debtors performed numerous thorough marketing processes that yielded no results that the Debtors could pursue. It was only when the Debtors' financial distress became more public that parties became interested. Even then, the proposals received by those interested parties were at fire sale prices and/or with contingencies that raised serious concerns regarding the likelihood of a closing on a potential transaction. Further, **no** party came forward with a proposal that was in excess of secured debt held by WTI or any of the other secured lenders.

3. Rent Deferrals and Lease Amendments

Other than payroll costs for School-based employees, the Debtors' main operating costs are the rental expenses (the "**Rent Costs**") associated with the Schools' leases (the "**Leases**"), which prior to the Foreclosures, had a weighted-average remaining lease term of approximately 16 years. As of April 30, 2025, the Debtors had approximately \$610,971,888 of long-term Lease liabilities. Indeed, the Rent Costs were historically more than one-third of the Debtors' operating revenues. For context, competitors in the early childcare education sector typically operate with Rent Costs at closer to 20% of Revenue. The Debtors high Rent Costs reflect: (a) many newer Schools that had not yet ramped to mature levels of operating revenue and (ii) above-market rents, driven by lease incentives (*i.e.*, capital contributions from development partners offered in exchange for higher rents).

Recognizing the massive Rent Costs, payment obligations, and the remaining long-term Lease liabilities, the Board executed a unanimous written consent on July 26, 2024 to (a) immediately stop all rent payments for the Leases beginning in August 2024 and (b) direct the Debtors to engage their landlords for the purposes of negotiating a restructuring of the Lease-related payments (the "Lease Restructuring"). In September 2024, the Debtors engaged Keen-Summit Capital Partners LLC to assist the Debtors with the Lease Restructuring.

The Lease Restructuring was a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that presented landlords multiple options for various amendments to the Leases, including, among other things, rent deferrals, rent abatement, extension of Lease terms, and application of amounts owed to the Debtors under the Lease (*i.e.*, TI budget, startup capital, etc.) towards the unpaid rent. The Debtors' real estate team engaged over 100 landlords to pursue the Lease Restructuring, including the structuring of an entire customer-relationship-management-like negotiations-management tool to track the various landlord negotiations. The Lease Restructuring was a success in that the Debtors executed approximately 120 Lease amendments—representing the vast majority of the Debtors' Leases. Further, for those Leases that could not be amended to a financially satisfactory agreement, the Debtors worked with the landlords to transition operations to a new tenant.

While the Lease Restructuring provided short-term benefits for the Debtors' cash flows, it ultimately was not sufficient to offset ongoing losses. Even with the cash flow savings, the Debtors were unable to achieve positive cash flow from operations. Further, the rent deferrals were only for a period of time with the deferred rent obligations becoming payable in September 2025 for continuing operations. For dozens

of other campuses, including certain leases that modified pursuant to the Lease Restructuring, the Debtors have not been paying rent for months and are in default thereunder

4. Foreclosures and Asset Sales

As stated above, the Debtors owed a significant amount of secured debt that was collateralized by a number of the Debtors' assets, including, among other things, the Schools, intellectual property, training and teaching programing, and other assets. The Debtors were simply unable to pay the required payments under the various secured debt obligations—whether they be monthly/quarterly interest payments or the payment of principal upon the term of the debt obligations. As a result, numerous secured lenders declared events of default, pursued their statutory remedies, and executed the Foreclosures on the majority of the Debtors' assets.

The Debtors analyzed and investigated potential alternatives to the Foreclosures, including, among other things, obtaining new funding to cure any defaults, negotiating delays to the Foreclosures, and potential transactions that would monetize certain assets. None of these alternatives resulted in any actionable paths for the Debtors. The Debtors then focused on the path that would: (a) keep as many employees with jobs, (b) allow for as many students and families to continue using the Schools, and (c) continue the Debtors' mission of providing the best Montessori education programming in the United States. While the Debtors would have preferred to lead this path, the reality was that the Debtors were financially unable to continue operations for these Schools and delay the Foreclosures. As such, the Debtors worked with their secured lenders and the Foreclosure Buyers (as defined herein) to ensure that Schools that were foreclosed upon were not impacted by the Foreclosures—ensuring that employees kept their jobs and students and families had Schools to attend.

(a) WTI Default and Foreclosure.

On March 10, 2025, WTI sent the Debtors a Notice of Default under Loan Agreements (the "WTI Default Notice") whereby WTI notified the Debtors of defaults under the WTI Loan Documents related to, among other things, the Borrowers' failure to pay necessary principal and interest payments, which the Borrowers failed to pay on December 1, 2024 through and including March 1, 2025. The Debtors investigated options to find funding to pay the WTI Cure Payment and were unable to do so.

As a result, on March 22, 2025, WTI foreclosed (the "WTI Foreclosure") on certain of the WTI Collateral (the "WTI Foreclosed Assets") and, pursuant to a private sale, sold the WTI Foreclosed Assets to GGE pursuant to that Foreclosure Sale Agreement dated March 22, 2025 (the "WTI Sale Agreement"). Pursuant to the WTI Sale Agreement, GGE provided consideration of \$23,082,335.51 for the acquisition of the WTI Foreclosed Assets, including numerous schools and substantially all of the Debtors' intellectual property, pedagogy, education and training programing, social media assets, and other assets necessary for the continual operations of the Schools.

As WTI did not foreclose on all of the WTI Collateral, WTI maintains a perfected, secured claim against the WTI Borrowers in the amount of \$4,680,970.83.

(b) Learn Capital Default and Foreclosure

On March 28, 2025, Learn Fund XXXVII delivered a Default Notice (the "Learn Fund XXXVII Default Notice") stating that the Learn Borrowers were in default under the Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note and related security agreement due to WTI issuing the WTI Default Notice. Learn Fund XXXVII declared the entire unpaid principal and accrued interest under the Learn Fund XXXVII Promissory Note due and payable in an amount not less than \$3,820,194.52. Also on March 28, 2025,

Learn Fund XXXVII delivered to the Learn Borrowers, Yu Capital, and counsel to EB5AN a Notification of Disposition of Collateral advising the Debtors that Learn Fund XXXVII intended to sell right, title and interest of the Learn Borrowers in and to Learn Fund XXXVII Collateral in which Learn Fund XXXVII has a first priority security interest (the "Learn Fund XXXVII Disposition Sale").

On April 17, 2025, Learn Fund XXXVII deliver a letter to Yu Capital and EB5AN providing an offer to sell the Learn Fund XXXVII Collateral, other than the LePort Emeryville School, for \$3,513,465.21, plus accruing interest (the "Learn Fund XXXVII Sale Offer"). Neither Yu Capital nor EB5AN pursued the Learn Fund XXXVII Sale Offer. The Debtors investigated options to find funding to delay the Learn Fund XXXVII Disposition Sale and were unable to do so.

On April 23, 2025, Learn Fund XXXVII foreclosed certain of the Learn Fund XXXVII Collateral (the "Learn Fund XXXVII Foreclosed Assets") and, pursuant to a private sale, sold the Learn Fund XXXVII Foreclosed Assets to Cosmic Education Americas Limited ("CEA"). Learn Fund XXXVII maintains an unsecured claim against the Learn Borrowers in the approximate principal amount of \$410,350.

(c) Yu Capital Default and Foreclosure

Following the WTI Default Notice and the Learn Fund XXXVII Default Notice, Yu Capital and certain of its affiliates issued their own default notices and pursued a foreclosure and sale of their collateral.

YuHGE A Foreclosure. The term of the YuHGE A loan ended on June 30, 2024, at which time all outstanding principal amount and unpaid interest were due and payable in full. Guidepost A did not pay the outstanding amount due and payable upon the term date and, on March 3, 2025, YuHGE A issued a Notice of Event of Default (the "YuHGE A Default Notice"). On March 31, 2025, YuHGE A issued of Notice of Events of Default, Acceleration of Loans and Public Auction of Collateral (the "YuHGE A Foreclosure Notice") whereby Yu Capital A stated that Guidepost A failed to cure the known events of default under the YuHGE A Loan and it intended to conduct a public auction to sell the YuHGE A Collateral. Because the Debtors were unable to cure all defaults, an auction was conducted at which TNC Schools LLC, as assignee for YuHGE A, submitted a credit bid in the aggregate amount of \$1,000,000 and were determined to be the highest bid for the YuHGE A Collateral.

Yu Capital Foreclosure. On March 3, 2025, Yu Capital issued a Notice of Event of Default (the "Yu Capital Default Notice") identifying an event of default related to Guidepost A's failure to make required monthly installment payments for February 2025 and stating that Guidepost A had until March 10, 2025 to cure all defaults under the Yu Capital Loan. Guidepost A failed to do so. As a result, on March 31, 2025, Yu Capital issued a Notice of Events of Default, Acceleration of Loans and Public Auction of Collateral (the "Yu Capital Foreclosure Notice") whereby Yu Capital stated that Guidepost A failed to cure the known events of default under the Yu Capital Loan and thus, a public action would be conducted to sell the Yu Capital Collateral. Because the Debtors were unable to cure all defaults, an auction was conducted at which TNC Schools LLC, as assignee for NTRC and Yu FICB, submitted a credit bid in the aggregate amount of \$5,000,000 and were determined to be the highest bid for the Yu Capital Collateral.

<u>YuFIC B and NRTC Default Notices</u>. The term of the YuFIC B loan ended on June 5, 2021, at which time all outstanding principal amount and unpaid interest were due and payable in full. Guidepost A did not pay the outstanding amount due and payable upon the term date and, on March 31, 2025, YuFIC B issued a Notice of Event of Default (the "**YuFIC B Default Notice**"). The YuFIC B Default Notice stated that if Guidepost A did not pay the YuFIC B Loan in full by April 8, 2025, YuFIC B would exercise its remedies.

On April 11, 2025, NTRC issued a Notice of Event of Default (the "NTRC Default Notice") identifying an event of default related to Guidepost A's failure to make required quarterly installment payments on April 10, 2025. The NTRC Default Notice stated that if Guidepost A did not cure the defaults under the NTRC Loan by April 18, 2025, NTRC would exercise its remedies.

Following the Yu Capital Foreclosure, the Debtors still owe approximately \$6,257,503 on the various Yu Capital Loans, with (a) \$289,833 owed to NTRC, (b) \$1,182,387 owed to YuFIC B, (c) \$57,424 owed to YuHGEA LLC, (d) \$327,858 owed to Yu Capital, and (e) \$2,200,000 owed to YuATI. Because all of the collateral securing these obligations were foreclosed upon, the Debtors believe that the outstanding obligations are unsecured.

(d) Sale of Certain Assets

Following the Foreclosures and even with the ability to fund certain operations under the TSAs, the Debtors were still in need of immediate working capital to pay, among other things, rent and payroll for the Schools that were not foreclosed upon and were/are being wound down in an organized manner. The Debtors' options were limited and resulted in the Debtors approaching Learn Capital and CEA for additional funding.

<u>Sale Directly to CEA</u>. To obtain necessary funding, HGE, the subsidiaries listed thereto, and CEA entered into that Asset and Equity Purchase Agreement dated May 7, 2025 (the "CEA Purchase Agreement"). Pursuant to the CEA Purchase Agreement, the Debtors sold to CEA (a) the Williamsburg, South Naperville, Bradley Hills, Leadwood, and South Riding Schools, and (b) all equity interests owned by the Debtors in Prepared TT and HGE FIC J LLC¹⁷ for the aggregate consideration of \$1,200,000.

Sale Pursuant to Purchase Option. To be able to fund payroll costs on April 8, 2025, HGE and certain other Debtors issued a Secured Convertible Promissory Note in the amount of \$2,200,000 to Learn Capital Fund XXXVII (the "Purchase Option Note"), secured by that Security Agreement, dated as of April 7, 2025. The Purchase Option Note was secured by substantially all of the assets in the following Schools (1) Guidepost Montessori at Emeryville; (2) Guidepost Montessori at Carmel; (3) Guidepost Montessori at Richardson; (4) Guidepost Montessori at Oak Brook; (5) Guidepost Montessori at Worthington; (6) Guidepost Montessori at Bridgewater; (7) Guidepost Montessori at Brasswood; and (8) Guidepost Montessori at Kentwood (collectively, the "Purchase Option Notice Collateral").

5. Post-Foreclosure and Asset Sales Operations

Concurrently with the Foreclosures, the Debtors entered into transition services agreements (the "TSAs") with GGE, CEA, and TNC (the "Foreclosure Buyers"). As stated above, the Debtors could not stop the Foreclosures and wanted to make sure that operations for the foreclosed-upon Schools were not impacted by the Foreclosures—the Debtors' goal was to make sure that as many employees remained employed and students in the Schools, as possible. As such, the Debtors worked with the Foreclosure Buyers to ensure that the foreclosed-upon Schools and the Schools acquired pursuant to the CEA Purchase Agreement and the Purchase Option would continue operating without any harm to the Schools' employees and students—maximizing value for all parties in interest.

With this in mind and knowing that the Foreclosure Buyers required additional time to transfer all operations to themselves, the Debtors entered into three different TSAs, one with each of GGE, CEA, and TNC. Pursuant to the TSAs, the Debtors have been administering various functions on behalf of the Foreclosure Buyers, including, among other things, the transfer of licenses, leases, student deposit

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¹⁷ Guidepost A owned a 49% interest HGE FIC J LLC, an entity that owns the Marlborough School.

processing, cash management systems, and employees (the "**Transition Services**"). In exchange for the performance of the Transition Services, the Foreclosure Buyers are required to make the Debtors' netzero – meaning that the Foreclosure Buyers reimburse and pay the Debtors for all expenses related to the Schools that the Foreclosure Buyers acquired and their respective share of the Debtors' overhead costs. In performing the Transition Services, GGE and CEA also allowed the Debtors to utilize tuition receipts for the Schools GGE and CEA acquired to offset against the costs of the Transition Services.

On June 1, 2025, substantially all of the Debtors' corporate employees ceased employment with the Debtors and began employment with GGE. As a result, the Debtors no longer had the staffing necessary to perform the Transition Services for the benefit the Foreclosure Buyers. Therefore, the TSAs with GGE, CEA, and TNC were terminated, effective June 1, 2025. The Debtors will continue to work with the Foreclosure Buyers to transfer necessary executory contracts, unexpired leases, and other documents to the Foreclosure Buyers to assist the Foreclosure Buyers in the ongoing operations of the Schools.

As the Debtors have ongoing operations and the need to perform several business functions, the Debtors and GGE entered into a Management Services Agreement, effective as of June 1, 2025 (the "MSA"). The MSA is necessary for the Debtors to continue operating during the pendency of these Chapter 11 Cases and to continue utilizing several business functions, including, among others, financing and accounting, human resources, and real estate matters. The Debtors will compensate GGE for the reasonable costs of the services performed by GGE under the MSA.

ARTICLE V. Events in the Chapter 11 Cases

The Debtors commenced these Chapter 11 Cases by filing voluntary chapter 11 petitions on June 17, 2025 and June 18, 2025. The Chapter 11 Cases are pending before the Honorable Michelle V. Larson in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. The Court has not appointed a trustee, and no official committee has been established.

A. First Day Motions

On the Petition Date, the Debtors filed multiple motions seeking various relief from the Bankruptcy Court to enable the Debtors to facilitate a smooth transition into chapter 11 (the "**First Day Motions**"). The Bankruptcy Court granted substantially all of the relief requested in the First Day Motions and entered various orders authorizing the Debtors to, among other things:

- Pay certain prepetition insurance premiums and continue insurance programs in the ordinary course [Docket No. 43];
- Pay certain prepetition taxes and assessments and continue paying taxes in the ordinary course [Docket No. 109];
- Honor certain prepetition obligations under the Debtors' customer programs and continue the Debtors' customer programs in the ordinary course [Docket No. 59];
- Establish procedures for future rejection of any additional burdensome leases [Docket No. 60]; and
- Pay certain prepetition workforce obligations and continue paying employee wages and benefits [Docket No. 61];

- Continue the use of the Debtors' cash management system, bank accounts, and business forms, on an interim basis [Docket No. 62]
- Obtain postpetition financing, on an interim basis [Docket No. 63].

Copies of the First Days Motions and related orders can be found on the website managed by Verita, the Debtor's Claims and Noticing Agent. *See* www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround.

B. Retention of Professionals

As part of first day relief, the Bankruptcy Court authorized the retention of Verita, as the claims, noticing, and solicitation agent of the Debtors. Docket No. 58. In the upcoming weeks, the Debtors intend to seek authorization to retain Foley, as bankruptcy counsel, and SCP, as financial advisors.

C. Bar Dates

The General Claims Bar Date for all creditors, other than Governmental Units, to file proofs of claim against the Debtors is August 7, 2025. The Governmental Bar Date for Governmental Units is December 15, 2025. Any references in the Plan or Disclosure Statement to any Claims or Equity Interests shall not constitute an admission of the existence, nature, extent, or enforceability thereof. Notices of the Bar Dates will be served on all known creditors and interested parties by June 27, 2025. Under the circumstances, the Debtors believe they have complied with applicable due process requirements for providing notice to all known creditors in these Chapter 11 Cases.

Pursuant to <u>Article 1.1.3</u> of the Plan, the Administrative Claims Bar Date for Holders of Administrative Claims is the first business day that is thirty (30) days following the Effective Date of the Plan, except as specifically set forth in the Plan or a Final Order of the Court. As set forth in <u>Article 1</u> of the Plan, Administrative Expense Claim means a Claim for costs or expenses of administration of the Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to sections 364(c)(1), 503(b), 507(a)(2), 507(b), or 1114(e)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, including: (a) any actual and necessary expenses of preserving the Debtors' Estates, including wages, salaries or commissions for services rendered after the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases, certain taxes, fines and penalties, any actual and necessary post-petition expenses of operating the business of the Debtors, including post-petition indebtedness or obligations, including the Senior DIP Lender Claim and the Junior DIP Lender Claim, incurred by or assessed against the Debtors in connection with the normal, usual or customary conduct of their business, or for the acquisition or payment of goods or lease of property, or for providing of services to the Debtors; (b) expenses pursuant to section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code; (c) all fees and charges assessed against the Estates pursuant to sections 1911 through 1930 of Chapter 123 of the Judicial Code; and (d) Professional Fee Claims.

ARTICLE VI. The Restructuring Support Agreement

A. Overview

The Restructuring Support Agreement is the lynchpin of the Debtors' prearranged restructuring, providing a clear path towards a value-maximizing reorganization and emergence from chapter 11. As detailed above, the Debtors' restructuring became necessary after years of rapid, debt-fueled expansion left them with unsustainable lease obligations, mounting secured debt, and persistent operating losses. By early 2025, defaults on key secured loans, including the WTI Loans and Yu Capital Loans, resulted in the foreclosure and sale of vast majority of the Debtors' assets and schools. Unable to secure refinancing or

new capital, the Debtors determined that a chapter 11 process was the only viable path to maximize value and continue the Debtors' educational-focused goals.

To that end, for approximately two (2) months prior to the Petition Dates, the Debtors began negotiating the terms of the Restructuring Support Agreement with 2HR and GG. Once the framework of the Restructuring Support Agreement was negotiated by the Debtors, 2HR, and GGE, the Debtors communicated with the other RSA Parties (the Girns, Yu Capital, and the Supporting RSA Parties) to request their support and negotiate any additional changes to the Restructuring Support Agreement and Plan.

As detailed below, the RSA specifically contemplates that the Debtors, 2HR, GGE, the Girns, Yu Capital, and the Supporting RSA Parties will support these Chapter 11 Cases and confirmation of the Plan. Indeed, each RSA Party support these Chapter 11 Cases based on the belief that a reorganization of the Debtors' remaining business will continue the Debtors' mission of providing the best early childhood education to students and families throughout the United States, whether utilizing the Debtors' current platform or modifying or supplementing that platform with new educational programing. The Debtors believe that the Restructuring Support Agreement provides the most value to creditors and parties in interest under the circumstances. Importantly, however, in the event that a better alternative to the proposed Restructuring Transaction was to present itself, the Restructuring Support Agreement provides that the Debtors may terminate the Restructuring Support Agreement in the exercise of their fiduciary duties relating to such event

B. Material Transactions Contemplated in the Restructuring Support Agreement

The restructuring transactions contemplated by the Restructuring Support Agreement will allow the Debtors to maximize value for creditors and parties in interest, keep the largest number of employees employed, and provide students and families with ongoing access to the Remaining Schools. Through the Restructuring Support Agreement, these Chapter 11 Cases are supported by up to \$8 million of new money in the form of the DIP Facilities, which also includes a dollar-for-dollar roll-up of up to \$2 million of the pre-petition bridge loans. Any amounts not utilized under the DIP Facilities will be used to fund recoveries to the Debtor's prepetition creditors. 2HR has also agreed to serve as the Plan Sponsor and provide the Debtors with the ability to effectuate their value-maximizing Plan.

Importantly, with the exception of a \$500,000 payment being made to Ray Girn on account of his Bridge CN-3 claims, the Plan provides that the RSA Parties are waiving their rights to Plan distributions in an effort to ensure some recoveries for the Debtors' unsecured creditors. Notably, absent these concessions, unsecured creditors would receive no recovery under the Plan.

Further, the Restructuring Support Agreement and Plan contemplate the reorganization of the Debtors' businesses to allow for 2HR to acquire the Debtors for future operations. This reorganization will right-size the Debtors' balance sheet and provide for 2HR to effectuate its educational mission through the Reorganized Debtors. On June 26, 2025, the Debtors filed the RSA Assumption Motion.

C. Material Terms of the Restructuring Support Agreement

Through the Restructuring Support Agreement, the Debtors have agreed to take or forego certain actions, including, but not limited to the following:

• Support and take all commercially reasonable actions necessary, or requested by 2HR, Five Y, or GGE, to obtain entry of the Order and implement and consummate the Restructuring Support Agreement in a timely manner (including, but not limited to, obtaining and/or supporting, as the

case may be, the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Definitive Documents, Solicitation of votes on and confirmation of the Plan and the consummation of the Restructuring Support Agreement pursuant to the Plan) consistent with the terms of the Restructuring Support Agreement and in accordance with the DIP Milestones (attached as Exhibit B to the Senior DIP Note in the Interim DIP Order);

- File Schedules of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Financial Affairs no later than twenty-one (21) days after the Petition Dates;
- Use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain an order from the Bankruptcy Court that establishes a deadline no later than three (3) days prior to the Confirmation Hearing to file proofs of claim;
- Timely file a formal objection to any motion filed with the Bankruptcy Court by any party seeking the entry of an order (A) directing the appointment of an examiner with expanded powers or a trustee, (B) converting the Chapter 11 Case to case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code or (C) dismissing the Chapter 11 Case;
- Timely file a formal objection to any motion filed with the Bankruptcy Court by any party seeking the entry of an order modifying or terminating the Debtors' exclusive right to file and/or solicit acceptances of a plan of reorganization;
- Use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain any and all governmental, regulatory, licensing or other approvals (if any) necessary to the implementation or consummation of the Restructuring Transaction or the approval by the Bankruptcy Court of the Definitive Documents;
- Seek, support, encourage, propose, assist, consent to, file, or vote for, or enter or participate in any discussions or any agreement with any Person regarding, directly or indirectly, any Alternative Transaction (as defined in the Restructuring Support Agreement);
- Oppose, delay, impede, or take any other action that is materially inconsistent with the Restructuring Support Agreement, or that would, or would reasonably be expected to, prevent, interfere with, delay or impede the implementation, solicitation, confirmation, or consummation of the Restructuring Support Agreement (including, but not limited to, the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Definitive Documents (if applicable), the Solicitation, and confirmation of the Plan);
- Enter into any commitment or agreement with respect to debtor-in-possession financing, cash collateral usage, exit financing and/or other financing arrangements, other than the DIP Financing or otherwise, without the consent of 2HR, Five Y, and GGE;
- In the future, take any action, or as to insiders, permit any action, that would result in an "ownership change" as such term is used in section 382 of title 26 of the United States Code;
- Take any action that would result (or that with the giving of notice or the passage of time, or both, would result) in a 2HR/Five Y Termination Event or a Consenting Party Termination Event.

In exchange for the Debtors' promises under the Restructuring Support Agreement, among other things, the RSA Parties agreed to:

- Support and take all actions reasonably requested by the Debtors, 2HR, Five Y, or GGE to obtain entry of the Order and facilitate the implementation and consummation of the Restructuring Transaction in a timely manner, including without limitation supporting approval of the DIP Financing, the filing of the Plan, an accompanying Disclosure Statement and other documents and consents reasonably required to be filed in connection with the Solicitation of votes on, and confirmation of, the Plan;
- (A) To the extent permitted by sections 1125 and 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code, (I) timely vote, or cause to be voted, all of the Claims and any other claims and interests held by such Consenting Party, which are in classes entitled to vote, by timely delivering its duly executed and completed ballot(s) accepting the Plan following commencement of the Solicitation and (II) not "opt out" of, or object to, any releases or exculpations provided under the Plan, including without limitation any third-party releases (and, to the extent required by the ballot, affirmatively "opt in" to such releases and exculpations), and (B) not change, withdraw or revoke such vote (or cause or direct such vote to be changed, withdrawn or revoked); and
- Timely vote or cause to be voted its Claims against any Alternative Transaction.
- Seek, support, encourage, propose, assist, consent to, file, or vote for, or enter or participate in any discussions or any agreement with any Person regarding, directly or indirectly, any Alternative Transaction:
- Seek, support, encourage, propose, assist, consent to, or enter into any agreement with any Person regarding, directly or indirectly, a Challenge Proceeding;
- Oppose, delay, impede, or take any other action that is materially inconsistent with the Restructuring Support Agreement or any of the Definitive Documents, or that would, or would reasonably be expected to, prevent, interfere with, delay or impede the implementation, solicitation, confirmation, or consummation of the Restructuring Transaction (including, but not limited to, the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Definitive Documents (if applicable), the Solicitation, and confirmation of the Plan):
- Sell, assign or transfer any portion of its Claim, or cause or permit to occur the sale, assignment or transfer of any claims or interests in the Debtors held directly or indirectly by it, unless to 2HR, Five Y, or to an affiliate of such Consenting Party; or
- Take any action that would result (or that with the giving of notice or the passage of time, or both, would result) in a 2HR/Five Y Termination Event or a Company Termination Event.

Importantly, the Restructuring Support Agreement provides that the Debtors may terminate the Restructuring Support Agreement under the following circumstances:

- Termination of the Restructuring Support Agreement by 2HR, Five Y, or GGE;
- 2HR's, Five Y's, or GGE's material breach of any agreements, covenants, representations, or warranties in this Restructuring Support Agreement;
- HGE's board of directors determines in good faith that continued performance under Restructuring Support Agreement would be inconsistent with the exercise of its fiduciary duties under applicable law;

- Five Y or GGE fails to provide or terminates its commitment to provide the DIP Financing;
- the Bankruptcy Court grants relief that is materially inconsistent with the Restructuring Support Agreement or would reasonably be expected to materially frustrate the purpose of the Restructuring Support Agreement;
- 2HR or Five Y files for approval of or otherwise supports any Alternative Transaction or other transaction that is inconsistent with the Plan or the Restructuring Support Agreement;
- any of the orders approving the DIP Financing, the Plan, or the Disclosure Statement are reversed, stayed, dismissed, vacated, reconsidered, modified, or amended without the consent of the Debtors; or
- the Bankruptcy Court's approval of any Alternative Transaction or other transaction that is inconsistent with the Plan or the Restructuring Support Agreement.

In sum, the Restructuring Support Agreement presents the most cost-effect path to a timely emergence of these Chapter 11 Cases path to a timely emergency from chapter 11 through settlement and compromise. The signing of the Restructuring Support Agreement was undertaken only after careful consideration by the Debtors and the Board. Critically, the Debtors' obligations under the Restructuring Support Agreement remain subject to their fiduciary duties as debtors and debtors in possession to maximize the value of their estates. Based on the foregoing, the Debtors believe they have exercised reasonable business judgment in their decision to execute the Restructuring Support Agreement, and that such execution is in the best interest of all creditors and parties in interest

ARTICLE VII. Overview of the Plan

THIS SECTION OF THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS INTENDED ONLY TO PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF THE KEY TERMS, STRUCTURE, CLASSIFICATION, TREATMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN, AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO THE ENTIRE PLAN AND EXHIBITS TO THE PLAN. ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT INCLUDE SUMMARIES OF THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE PLAN AND IN DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO THEREIN, THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE A PRECISE OR COMPLETE STATEMENT OF ALL RELATED TERMS AND PROVISIONS, AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED ON FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE PLAN. INSTEAD, REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE PLAN AND ALL SUCH DOCUMENTS FOR THE FULL AND COMPLETE STATEMENTS OF SUCH TERMS AND PROVISIONS. THE PLAN ITSELF (INCLUDING ATTACHMENTS) AND THE PLAN SUPPLEMENT WILL CONTROL THE TREATMENT OF HOLDERS OF CLAIMS AND INTERESTS UNDER THE PLAN. TO THE EXTENT THERE ARE ANY INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THIS SECTION VII AND THE PLAN (INCLUDING ANY ATTACHMENTS TO THE PLAN) AND THE PLAN SUPPLEMENT, THE PLAN AND PLAN SUPPLEMENT, AS APPLICABLE, SHALL GOVERN.

A. Administrative and Priority Tax Claims

In accordance with section 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, Administrative Claims and Priority Tax Claims have not been classified and thus are excluded from the Classes of Claims set forth in <u>Article 3.2</u> and <u>Article 3.3</u> of the Plan.

1. Administrative Claims

Except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Administrative Expense Claim has been paid by the Debtors prior to the Effective Date or such other treatment has been agreed to by the Holder of such Administrative Expense Claim and the Debtors, each Holder of an Allowed Administrative Expense Claim (other than a Professional Fee Claim), in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement and discharge of such Administrative Expense Claim, shall be paid in full, in Cash, in such amounts as (a) are incurred in the ordinary course of business by the Debtors when and as such Claim becomes due and owing, (b) are Allowed by the Bankruptcy Court upon the later of the Effective Date, the date upon which there is a Final Order allowing such Administrative Expense Claim or any other date specified in such order, or (c) may be agreed upon between the Holder of such Administrative Expense Claim and the Debtors.

Holders of Administrative Claims that are required to, but do not, file and serve a request for payment of such Administrative Claim by the Administrative Bar Date shall be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such Administrative Claims against the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, the Wind-Down Entity, the Estates, or the Property of any of the foregoing, and such Administrative Claims shall be deemed discharged as of the Effective Date.

2. **Professional Fee Claims**

(a) Final Professional Fee Applications

All final requests for payment of Professional Fee Claims, including the Professional Holdback Amount and Professional Fee Claims incurred during the period from the Petition Date through the Effective Date, must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court and served on the Reorganized Debtors no later than forty-five (45) days after the Effective Date. After notice and a hearing in accordance with the procedures established by the Bankruptcy Code and any applicable orders of the Bankruptcy Court, the Allowed amounts of such Professional Fee Claims shall be determined and paid as directed by the Bankruptcy Court.

(b) Post-Effective Dates Fees and Expenses

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan, from and after the Effective Date, each of the Reorganized Debtors and the Disbursing Agent shall, in the ordinary course of business and without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court, pay in Cash their respective reasonable legal, professional, or other fees and expenses related to implementation of the Plan and Consummation incurred by such Reorganized Debtor or Disbursing Agent.

(c) Professional Fee Reserve

No later than one (1) Business Day prior to the Effective Date, holders of Professional Fee Claims shall provide a reasonable estimate of unpaid Professional Fee Claims incurred in rendering services to the Debtors prior to approval by the Bankruptcy Court through and including the Effective Date, including any fees and expenses projected to be outstanding as of the Effective Date, and the Debtors shall escrow such estimated amounts for the benefit of the Holders of the Professional Fee Claims until the fee applications related thereto are resolved by Final Order or agreement of the parties; *provided*, such estimate shall not be deemed to limit the amount of fees and expenses that are the subject of a Professional Person's final request for payment of filed Professional Fee Claims. If a Holder of a Professional Fee Claim does not provide an estimate, the Debtors shall estimate the unpaid and unbilled reasonable and necessary fees and out-of-pocket expenses of such holder of a Professional Fee Claim. When all Professional Fee Claims have been Allowed and paid in full or not Allowed, any remaining

amount in such escrow shall be remitted to the Disbursing Agent for distribution in accordance with the Plan.

3. **Priority Tax Claims**

Except to the extent that a Holder of an Allowed Priority Tax Claim or Secured Tax Claim has been paid by the Debtors prior to the Effective Date or agrees to a different treatment, each Holder of an Allowed Priority Tax Claim and Secured Tax Claim, in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement and discharge of such Priority Tax Claim or Secured Tax Claim, shall receive on account of such Claim, payment in full in Cash as soon as reasonably practicable after the Effective Date or such other treatment in accordance with the terms set forth in section 1129(a)(9)(c) of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. Senior DIP Lender Claim

The Senior DIP Lender Claim shall be Allowed in the full amount of all amounts advanced under the Senior DIP Loan, plus accrued interest. Pursuant to the Subscription Option, the Senior DIP Lender shall have the option to convert up to 100% of the principle amount of the Allowed Senior DIP Lender Claim into shares of Reorganized HGE Common Stock at a rate of 10% of the Allowed Senior DIP Lender Claim for 60 shares of Reorganized HGE Common Stock, up to a maximum of 100% of the Allowed Senior DIP Lender Claim for 600 shares out of the total 1000 shares of Reorganized HGE Common Stock.

All amounts of the Allowed Senior DIP Lender Claim that are not exchanged for Reorganized HGE Common Stock on account of an election of the Subscription Option shall be repaid (a) in full in Cash from the Plan Consideration on the Effective Date or (b) by mutual agreement of Plan Sponsor and Senior DIP Lender, deemed repaid via a dollar-for-dollar reduction in funding of the Plan Consideration. For the avoidance of doubt, the election, partial election or non-election of the Subscription Option will not impact the recovery to the Estates.

5. **Junior DIP Lender Claim**

The Junior DIP Lender Claim shall be Allowed in full. On the Effective Date, in consideration for the Settlement and Releases contained herein, each Holder of an Allowed Junior DIP Lender Claim, in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement, and discharge of such Allowed Junior DIP Financing Claim, agrees that its Junior DIP Lender Claim shall be forgiven in its entirety.

6. Statutory Fees

All fees payable pursuant to section 1930(a) of the Judicial Code, as determined by the Bankruptcy Court at a hearing pursuant to section 1128 of the Bankruptcy Code, shall be paid by each of the Reorganized Debtors (or the Disbursing Agent on behalf of each of the Reorganized Debtors) for each quarter (including any fraction thereof) until the Chapter 11 Cases are converted, dismissed, or closed, whichever occurs first; provided that all fees attributable to Guidepost Global on account of the transfer of the Designated EB-5 Entities (if any) to Guidepost Global shall be paid by Guidepost Global. For avoidance of doubt, the U.S. Trustee shall not be required to File any Administrative Claim in the Chapter 11 Case and shall not be treated as providing any release under the Plan in connection therewith.

B. Classification of Claims and Interests

This Plan constitutes a separate Plan proposed by each Debtor. Except for the Claims addressed in Article 3 of the Plan, all Claims and Interests are classified in the Classes set forth below in accordance

with section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code. A Claim or an Interest is classified in a particular Class only to the extent that the Claim or Interest qualifies within the description of that Class and is classified in other Classes to the extent that any portion of the Claim or Interest qualifies within the description of such other Classes. A Claim or an Interest is also classified in a particular Class for the purpose of receiving distributions under the Plan only to the extent that such Claim or Interest is an Allowed Claim or Interest in that Class and has not been paid, released, or otherwise satisfied prior to the Effective Date.

Voting tabulations for recording acceptances or rejections of the Plan shall be conducted on a Debtor-by-Debtor basis as set forth above.

Class	Claims and Interests	Status	Voting Rights
Class 1:	Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender Claim	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 2:	WTI Secured Lender Claim	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 3	CN Note Claims	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 4:	Other Secured Claims	Unimpaired	Deemed to Accept; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 5:	Non-Tax Priority Claims	Unimpaired	Deemed to Accept; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 6:	General Unsecured Claims	Impaired	Entitled to Vote
Class 7:	Intercompany Claims	Impaired	Deemed to Reject; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 8:	Equity	Impaired	Deemed to Reject; Not Entitled to Vote
Class 9:	Subsidiary Equity Interests	Unimpaired	Deemed to Accept; Not Entitled to Vote

To the extent a Class contains Allowed Claims or Allowed Interests with respect to any Debtor, the classification of Allowed Claims and Allowed Interests is specified below.

Class 1—Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender Claims

- a. *Impairment:* Class 1 consists of the Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender Claims. Class 1 is Impaired, and the Holders of Claims in Class 1 are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.
- b. Treatment: The Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender Claims are deemed Allowed in the amount of at least \$4,800,000. On or as soon as practicable after the Effective Date, the Holders of Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender Claims, in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement, and discharge of such Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender Claims, shall receive a Cash distribution in the aggregate amount of \$500,000, to be distributed in accordance with the Bridge CN-3 Distribution Agreement.

Class 2—WTI Secured Lender Claims

a. *Impairment*: Class 2 consists of the WTI Secured Lender Claim. Class 2 is Impaired, and the Holders of Claims in Class 2 are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

b. *Treatment*: The WTI Secured Lender Claim is deemed allowed in the amount of at least \$4,680,970.83. On or as soon as practicable after the Effective Date, Holders of WTI Secured Lender Claims, in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement, and discharge of such WTI Secured Lender Claims, shall receive 100% of all Cash remaining after distributions on account of Allowed Administrative Expense Claims, Priority Tax Claims, Secured Tax Claims and Class 1 Claims; *provided, however*, in the event of that Class 3 and/or Class 6 accepts the Plan, the Holders of WTI Secured Lender Claim agree that, following distributions on account of Allowed Class 5 Claims, the WTI Secured Lenders' distributions shall instead be distributed for the benefit of the Holders of Allowed Class 3 and/or Class 6 Claims pursuant to the Junior Class Distribution Formula:

Class 3—CN Note Claims

- a. *Impairment*: Class 3 consists of the CN Note Claims. Class 3 is Impaired, and the Holders of Claims in Class 3 are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.
- b. Treatment: The CN Note Claims are deemed Allowed in the principal amount of at least \$117,434,915. If Class 3 votes to accept the Plan, then the Holders of Allowed Class 3 Claims (other than the Released Parties, if applicable) shall receive their pro rata share of the CN Note Recovery pursuant to the Junior Class Distribution Formula in accordance with terms of the Note Purchase Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, Class 3 shall only receive a distribution under the Plan if Class 3 accepts the Plan.
- c. The CN Notes shall not be deemed satisfied, released, settled or discharged under the Plan. As set forth in the Plan Supplement, at the election of Plan Sponsor (i) the CN Note Claims shall be deemed to be assigned to the Plan Sponsor and/or (ii) be converted to a class of equity of the Reorganized Debtor, the entirety of which shall be acquired by Plan Sponsor pursuant to the Plan, and upon request shall execute and deliver all such affidavits, certificates, agreements, instruments and other documents which are usual and customary to facilitate the foregoing assignment, in each case, in form and substance reasonably acceptable to the Plan Sponsor.

Class 4 — Other Secured Claims

- a. *Non-Impairment*: Class 4 consists of all Other Secured Claims. Class 4 is Unimpaired, and pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Holders of Claims in Class 4 are conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.
- b. *Subclassification:* Each Other Secured Claim, if any, shall constitute and comprise a separate Subclass numbered 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and so on.
- c. *Treatment*: On the Effective Date, each Allowed Other Secured Claim, in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement and discharge of such Allowed Other Secured Claim, shall be, at the Debtors' option, (a) Reinstated, (b) satisfied by the Debtors' surrender of the collateral securing such Claim (except to the extent such collateral constitutes Reorganized HGE Assets), (c) offset against, and to the extent of, the Debtors' claims against the Holder of such Claim, or (d)

otherwise rendered Unimpaired (provided such unimpairment shall not impact the Reorganized HGE Assets without the express consent of Plan Sponsor), except to the extent the Debtors, the Plan Sponsor and such Holder agree to a different treatment.

Class 5—Non-Tax Priority Claims

- a. *Non-Impairment:* Class 5 consists of all Non-Tax Priority Claims. Class 5 is Unimpaired, and pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Holders of Claims in Class 5 are conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.
- b. *Treatment*: The legal, equitable and contractual rights of the Holders of Allowed Non-Tax Priority Claims are unaltered by the Plan. Each Holder of an Allowed Non-Tax Priority Claim, in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement, and discharge of such Allowed Non-Tax Priority Claim, shall be paid in full, in Cash, on, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, the Effective Date, or in accordance with the terms of any agreement between the Debtors, the Plan Sponsor and the Holder of an Allowed Non-Tax Priority Claim or on such other terms and conditions as are acceptable to the Debtors, the Plan Sponsor and the Holder of an Allowed Non-Tax Priority Claim.

Class 6—General Unsecured Claims

- a. *Impairment:* Class 6 consists of all General Unsecured Claims. Class 6 is Impaired, and the Holders of Class 6 Claims are entitled to vote on the Plan.
- b. *Treatment:* On or as soon as practicable after the Effective Date, then the Holders of Allowed General Unsecured Claims (other than the Released Parties, if applicable), in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement, and discharge of such Allowed General Unsecured Claim, shall receive their pro rata share of the GUC Recovery pursuant to the Junior Class Distribution Formula. For the avoidance of doubt, Class 6 shall only receive a distribution under the Plan if Class 6 accepts the Plan.

Class 7—Intercompany Claims

- a. *Impairment:* Class 7 consists of all Intercompany Claims. Class 7 is Impaired, and pursuant to section 1126(g) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Holders of Intercompany Claims in Class 7 are deemed to reject the Plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.
- b. *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, all Intercompany Claims shall be cancelled, and Holders of Intercompany Claims shall not receive or retain any Property under the Plan on account of their Intercompany Claims.

Class 8 — Equity

a. *Impairment:* Class 8 consists of all Equity Interests. Class 8 is Impaired, and pursuant to section 1126(g) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Holders of Equity

Interests in Class 8 are deemed to reject the Plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

b. *Treatment:* On the Effective Date, all Equity shall be retired, cancelled, extinguished and discharged, and Holders of Equity Interests shall not receive or retain any Property under the Plan on account of such Equity Interests.

Class 9—Subsidiary Equity Interests

- a. *Non-Impairment:* Class 9 consists of Subsidiary Equity Interests. Class 9 is Unimpaired, and pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Holders of Subsidiary Equity Interests in Class 9 are conclusively presumed to have accepted the Plan and are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.
- b. *Treatment:* Except as otherwise set forth in the Plan, the legal, equitable and contractual rights of the Holders of Allowed Subsidiary Equity Interests are unaltered by the Plan.

C. Elimination of Vacant Classes

Any Class of Claims or Interests that does not have a Holder of an Allowed Claim or Allowed Interest or a Claim or Interest temporarily Allowed by the Bankruptcy Court as of the date of the Confirmation Hearing shall be deemed eliminated from the Plan for purposes of voting to accept or reject the Plan and for purposes of determining acceptance or rejection of the Plan by such Class pursuant to section 1129(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code.

D. Voting Classes; Deemed Acceptance

If Holders of Claims in a particular Impaired Class of Claims were given the opportunity to vote to accept or reject this Plan and notified that a failure of any Holders of Claims in such Impaired Class of Claims to vote to accept or reject this Plan would result in such Impaired Class of Claims being deemed to have accepted this Plan, but no Holders of Claims in such Impaired Class of Claims voted to accept or reject this Plan, then the Debtors shall request the Bankruptcy Court to deem the Plan accepted by the Holders of such Claims or Interests in such Class.

E. Subordinated Claims

The allowance, classification, and treatment of all Allowed Claims and Allowed Interests and the respective distributions and treatments under the Plan take into account and conform to the relative priority and rights of the Claims and Interests in each Class in connection with any contractual, legal, and equitable subordination rights relating thereto, whether arising under general principles of equitable subordination, section 510(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, or otherwise. Pursuant to section 510 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Reorganized Debtors reserve the right to reclassify any Allowed Claim or Allowed Interest in accordance with any contractual, legal, or equitable subordination relating thereto.

F. Controversy Concerning Impairment

If a controversy arises as to whether any Claims or Interests, or any Class of Claims or Interests, are Impaired, the Bankruptcy Court shall, after notice and a hearing, determine such controversy on or before the Confirmation Date.

1. Nonconsensual Confirmation Pursuant to Section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code

Section 1129(a)(10) of the Bankruptcy Code shall be satisfied for purposes of Confirmation by acceptance of the Plan by one or more of the Classes entitled to vote pursuant to <u>Article 3</u> of the Plan. The Debtors shall seek Confirmation of the Plan pursuant to section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to any rejecting Class of Claims or Interests.

The Debtors reserve the right to modify the Plan in accordance with <u>Article 6.3</u> and <u>Article 13.7</u> of the Plan to the extent, if any, that Confirmation pursuant to section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code requires modification, including by modifying the treatment applicable to a Class of Claims to render such Class of Claims Unimpaired to the extent permitted by the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules or to withdraw the Plan as to such Debtor.

G. Means for Execution and Implementation of the Plan

1. Plan Funding by Plan Sponsor

On the Effective Date, the Plan Sponsor shall wire the Plan Consideration, as directed by the Debtors, verified receipt of which shall be a condition to effectiveness of this Plan. The Plan Sponsor shall be entitled to rely on the accuracy and correctness of the directions of the Debtors and Disbursing Agent in connection with any and all such wire transfer(s). In no event shall Plan Sponsor or Reorganized HGE be liable or responsible to the Debtors or the Disbursing Agent for any erroneous wire transfer made at the direction of the Debtors. The Plan Consideration shall be used by the Disbursing Agent to fund all Plan obligations.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Cash available to the Estates for Creditors other than the Senior DIP Lender (after giving effect to the retirement of the DIP Lender Claim (whether by exercise of the Subscription Option and/or payment or deemed repayment of the portion of the DIP Lender Claim for which the Subscription Claim is not exercised)) and the Junior DIP Lender (after giving effect to the forgiveness of its Junior DIP Lender Claims) for which to effectuate the Plan, will be \$8 million *minus* the DIP Lender Claims

2. Plan Funding by the Debtors

On the Effective Date, the Debtors shall wire all Property constituting Cash-on-Hand to the Disbursing Agent to fund the Disbursing Agent Restricted Accounts free and clear of all Liens, Claims, interests and encumbrances of any kind free and clear of all Liens, Claims, interests and encumbrances of any kind.

3. Authorization and Issuance of Reorganized HGE Common Stock

On the Effective Date, 1,000 shares of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock, representing 100% of the equity of the Reorganized HGE, shall be issued to the Plan Sponsor or an entity designated by the Plan Sponsor, in consideration for the Plan Consideration and, to the Senior DIP Lender, to the extent that it exercises the Subscription Option. The Reorganized HGE Common Stock shall be free and clear of all Liens, Claims, interests, and encumbrances of any kind. All the shares of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock issued pursuant to the Plan shall be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable. On the Effective Date, none of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock will be listed on a national securities exchange.

4. Contribution of Guidepost Global Assets

On the Effective Date, Guidepost Global will contribute the Guidepost Global Assets to the Debtors, for the benefit of Plan Sponsor and the Reorganized Debtors.

5. Transfer of Designated EB-5 Entities to Guidepost Global

On the Effective Date, in consideration for Guidepost Global funding the Junior DIP Loan and contributing the Curriculum Assets and the IP License, the Debtors will transfer the Designated EB-5 Entities (but not their assets, except as otherwise set forth in the Plan Supplement) to Guidepost Global free and clear of all liens, claims, encumbrances and other interests. The Debtors shall cooperate in good faith and execute, acknowledge, and deliver all such further documents, instruments, and assurances, and take all such further actions as may be reasonably necessary or desirable to effectuate and facilitate the transfer contemplated by this section. Following the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors, upon request by GGE, Yu Capital, TNC or EB5AN, shall cooperate in good faith to promptly execute and deliver any additional documents or perform any acts that may be required to carry out the intent and purpose of this section and to complete the transfer in accordance with its terms; provided that the requesting party shall pay for the Reorganized Debtors' documented costs in connection with same.

6. Cancellation and Surrender of Securities and Agreements

On the Effective Date, all Equity of Higher Ground Education and each other Debtor identified in Schedule 4.8 of the Plan Supplement shall be retired, cancelled, extinguished and/or discharged in accordance with the terms of the Plan. Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or the Plan Supplement, on the Effective Date: (a) the obligations of the Debtors under any certificate, share, note, bond, indenture, purchase right, option, warrant, or other instrument or document, directly or indirectly, evidencing or creating any indebtedness or obligation of or ownership interest in the Debtors giving rise to any Claim or Equity Interest shall be cancelled as to the Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors shall not have any continuing obligations thereunder and (b) the obligations of the Debtors pursuant, relating, or pertaining to any agreements, indentures, certificates of designation, bylaws, or certificate or articles of incorporation or similar documents governing the shares, certificates, notes, bonds, purchase rights, options, warrants or other instruments or documents evidencing or creating any indebtedness or obligation of the Debtors shall be released and discharged.

7. **Release of Liens**

Upon request by the Debtors, any of the Reorganized Debtors or the Plan Sponsor, any Person holding a Lien in any of the Debtors' Property shall execute any lien release or similar document(s) required to implement the Plan or reasonably requested by the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors or the Plan Sponsor in a prompt and diligent manner. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors and the Plan Sponsor are authorized to execute any lien release or similar document(s) required to implement the Plan.

8. Vesting of Assets and Operation of Business

On the Effective Date, except as otherwise expressly provided in the Plan or Confirmation Order, the Reorganized HGE Assets shall vest or re-vest in Reorganized HGE, in each instance free and clear of all Liens, Claims, interests, and encumbrances of any kind. Subsidiary Equity Interests that are not Designated EB 5 Entities shall be retained, and the legal, equitable and contractual rights to which the Holders of such Allowed Subsidiary Equity Interests that are not Designated EB-5 Entities are entitled shall remain unaltered. To the extent not prohibited by applicable non-bankruptcy law, all licenses,

permits, certificates of occupancy, and similar rights and privileges in the name of any of the Reorganized HGE Subsidiaries which are required by any federal, state, or local governmental agency in order for Reorganized HGE to conduct education-focused operations at the locations operated by Reorganized HGE prior to the Effective Date, shall be deemed assumed by without further action on the Effective Date pursuant to the Confirmation Order.

Neither the issuance of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock nor any transfer of Property through the Plan shall result in Reorganized HGE, or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates, (a) having any liability or responsibility for any Claim against or Interest in the Debtors, the Debtors' Estates, or any Insider of the Debtors, or (b) having any liability or responsibility to the Debtors, except as expressly provided in the Plan. Without limiting the effect or scope of the foregoing, and to the fullest extent permitted by applicable laws, neither the issuance of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock nor the transfer of assets contemplated in the Plan shall subject Reorganized HGE or its properties, subsidiaries or assets or affiliates, successors, or assigns to any liability for Claims against the Debtors' interests in such assets by reason of such issuance of Reorganized HGE Common Stock or transfer of assets under any applicable laws, including, without limitation, any successor liability, except as expressly provided in the Plan.

On the Effective Date, except as otherwise provided in the Plan, Reorganized HGE may operate its business and may use, acquire, or dispose of any and all of its Estate Property, without supervision of or approval by the Bankruptcy Court and free of any restrictions of the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules, except as expressly provided in the Plan.

9. **Retention of Causes of Action**

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, the Confirmation Order, or in any settlement agreement approved during the Chapter 11 Cases: (a) any and all rights, Claims, Causes of Action, defenses, and counterclaims of or accruing to the Debtors or their Estates shall remain assets of and vest in the Reorganized Debtors, whether or not litigation relating thereto is pending on the Effective Date, and whether or not any such rights, claims, Causes of Action, defenses, and counterclaims have been listed or referred to in the Plan, the Schedules, or any other document filed with the Bankruptcy Court; and (b) neither the Debtors nor the Reorganized Debtors waive, relinquish, or abandon (nor shall they be estopped or otherwise precluded from asserting) any right, Claim, Cause of Action, defense, or counterclaim that constitutes Property of the Estates: (i) whether or not such right, Claim, Cause of Action, defense, or counterclaim has been listed or referred to in the Plan or the Schedules, or any other document filed with the Bankruptcy Court, (ii) whether or not such right, Claim, Cause of Action, defense, or counterclaim is currently known to the Debtors, and (iii) whether or not a defendant in any litigation relating to such right, Claim, Cause of Action, defense, or counterclaim filed a Proof of Claim in the Chapter 11 Cases, filed a notice of appearance or any other pleading or notice in the Chapter 11 Cases, voted for or against the Plan, or received or retained any consideration under the Plan. Without in any manner limiting the generality of the foregoing, notwithstanding any otherwise applicable principle of law or equity, including, without limitation, any principles of judicial estoppel, res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, or any similar doctrine, the failure to list, disclose, describe, identify, or refer to a right, Claim, Cause of Action, defense, or counterclaim, or potential right, Claim, Cause of Action, defense, or counterclaim, in the Plan, the Schedules, or any other document filed with the Bankruptcy Court shall in no manner waive, eliminate, modify, release, or alter the Reorganized Debtors' right to commence, prosecute, defend against, settle, and realize upon any rights, Claims, Causes of Action, defenses, or counterclaims that the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors has, or may have, as of the Confirmation Date. The Reorganized Debtors may commence, prosecute, defend against, settle, and realize upon any rights, Claims, Causes of Action, defenses, and counterclaims in their sole discretion, in accordance with what is in the best interests, and for the benefit, of the Reorganized Debtors.

10. Satisfaction of Claims or Interests

Unless otherwise provided in the Plan, any distributions and deliveries to be made on account of Allowed Claims shall be in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement and discharge of such Allowed Claims.

11. Settlement and Releases

On the Effective Date, in consideration for, among other things, (a) Guidepost Global (i) funding the Junior DIP Loan (and agreeing to forgive same on the Effective Date) and certain pre-petition bridge loans, (ii) contributing the Curriculum Assets, the Montessorium IP and the IP License to the Debtors for the benefit of Plan Sponsor and the Reorganized Debtors; (b) 2HR Learning, Inc. funding the Purchase Price, (c) the Released Parties and each of their affiliates waiving their rights to distributions under the Plan (except as otherwise set forth herein), and (d) each of the other contributions to the Bankruptcy Cases being made by the Released Parties, the Plan will provide for broad releases by the Debtors of all estate Claims and Causes of Action against the Released Parties, their affiliates and their respective current and former shareholders or other equity holders, current and former officers, directors, employees, members, managers, partners, principals, agents, attorneys, financial advisors, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, representatives, and other professionals, in each case in their capacity as such.

12. **Exemption from Securities Laws**

Any rights issued under, pursuant to or in effecting the Plan, including, without limitation, the Reorganized HGE Common Stock and the offering and issuance thereof by any party, including without limitation the Debtors or the Estate, shall be exempt from Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933, if applicable, and from any state or federal securities laws requiring registration for offer or sale of a security or registration or licensing of an issuer of, underwriter of, or broker or dealer in, a security, and shall otherwise enjoy all exemptions available for Distributions of securities under a plan of reorganization in accordance with all applicable law, including without limitation section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code. If the issuance of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock does not qualify for an exemption under section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Reorganized HGE Common Stock shall be issued in a manner, which qualifies for any other available exemption from registration, whether as a private placement under Rule 506 of the Securities Act, Section 4(2) of the Securities Act, and/or the safe harbor provisions promulgated thereunder.

13. "Change of Control" Provisions

For purposes of effectuating the Plan, none of the transactions contemplated herein shall constitute a change of control under any agreement, contract, or document of the Debtors, or create, or be deemed to create, any right or any other claim in connection therewith based upon a provision related to a "change of control," or comparable term in any executory contract or unexpired lease being assigned and/or assumed pursuant to the Plan.

14. Substantive Consolidation of the Debtors for Voting and Distribution Purposes Only

On and after the Effective Date, and solely for purposes of voting on, and making distributions under, the Plan, each and every Claim in the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases against any of the Debtors shall be deemed filed against the consolidated Debtors and shall be deemed a single consolidated Claim against and obligation of the consolidated Debtors. Such limited consolidation shall in no manner affect or alter (other than for Plan voting and distribution purposes) (a) the legal and corporate structures of the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, or (b) pre- and post-Petition Date Liens, guarantees, and security interests that

are required to be maintained for any reason. From and after the Effective Date, each of the Reorganized Debtors will be deemed a separate and distinct entity, properly capitalized, vested with all of the assets of such Debtor as they existed prior to the Effective Date and having the liabilities and obligations provided for under the Plan. Notwithstanding anything in Section 4.18 of the Plan to the contrary, all post-Effective Date fees payable to the United States Trustee pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1930, if any, shall be calculated on a separate legal entity basis for each Debtor.

15. Transition Services

To the extent deemed necessary or appropriate by the Debtors or the Plan Sponsor, the Debtors may continue to operate post-Effective Date under one or more transition services agreements with Plan Sponsor, Reorganized HGE, Guidepost Global or any other Person.

16. **Dissolution of Certain Debtors**

On or after the Effective Date, certain of the Debtors may be dissolved without further action under applicable law, regulation, order, or rule, including any action by the stockholders, members, the board of directors, or similar governing body of the Debtors, Reorganized HGE, or the Disbursing Agent. Reorganized HGE and the Disbursing Agent shall have the power and authority to take any action necessary to wind down and dissolve the foregoing Debtors, and may, to the extent applicable: (a) file a certificate of dissolution for such entities, together with all other necessary corporate and company documents, to effect the dissolution of such entities under the applicable laws of their states of formation; (b) complete and file all final or otherwise required federal, state, and local tax returns and pay taxes required to be paid for such Debtors, and pursuant to section 505(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, request an expedited determination of any unpaid tax liability of any of such Debtors, as determined under applicable tax laws; and (c) represent the interests of such Debtors before any taxing authority in all tax matters, including any action, proceeding or audit.

H. Corporate Governance and Management of the Reorganized Debtors

1. Corporate Action and Existence

The Debtors shall deliver all documents and perform all actions reasonably contemplated with respect to implementation of the Plan. The Debtors, or their designees, are authorized (a) to execute on behalf of the Debtors, in a representative capacity and not individually, any documents or instruments after the Confirmation Date or at the Closing that may be necessary to consummate the Plan and (b) to undertake any other action on behalf of the Debtors to consummate the Plan. Each of the matters provided for under the Plan involving the corporate structure of the Debtors or corporate action to be taken by or required of the Debtors will, as of the Effective Date, be deemed to have occurred and be effective as provided herein, and shall be authorized, approved, and (to the extent taken before the Effective Date) ratified in all respects without any requirement of further action by stockholders, creditors, or directors of the Debtors. On the Effective Date, all matters provided for in the Plan involving the corporate structure of the Reorganized Debtors, and all corporate actions required by the Debtors and the Reorganized Debtors in connection with the Plan, shall be deemed to have occurred and shall be in effect, without any requirement of further action by the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors.

Upon the Effective Date, and without any further action by the shareholders, directors, or officers of the Reorganized Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors' Corporate Documents shall be deemed amended (a) to the extent necessary, to incorporate the provisions of the Plan, and (b) to prohibit the issuance by the Reorganized Debtors of nonvoting securities to the extent required under section 1123(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code, subject to further amendment of such Corporate Documents as permitted by applicable

law, and to the extent such documents are amended, such documents are deemed to be amended pursuant to the Plan and require no further action or approval other than any requisite filings required under applicable state, provincial or federal law. The Corporate Documents shall be filed with the Plan Supplement.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, each Debtor shall continue to exist after the Effective Date as a separate corporate entity, limited liability company, partnership, or other form, as the case may be, with all the powers of a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other form, as the case may be, pursuant to the applicable law in the jurisdiction in which each applicable Debtor is incorporated or formed and pursuant to its certificate of incorporation and bylaws (or other formation documents) in effect prior to the Effective Date, except to the extent such certificate of incorporation and bylaws (or other formation documents) are amended under the Plan, and to the extent such documents are amended, such documents are deemed to be amended pursuant to the Plan and require no further action or approval (other than any requisite filings required under applicable state, provincial, or federal law). Prior to the Effective Date, the Debtors may engage in such corporate and financial transactions, including mergers, asset transfers, consolidations, amalgamations, separations, series organizations, reorganization and otherwise for the purposes of optimizing the post Effective Date corporate and tax structure of the Reorganized Debtors. If proposed prior to the Effective Date, any such transaction will be subject to Court approval, if such approval would be necessary under the Bankruptcy Code.

2. Management and Board of Reorganized HGE

In accordance with Section 1129(a)(5)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors will disclose in the Plan Supplement the identities of those individuals proposed to serve, following the Effective Date, as directors and officers of Reorganized HGE, and the Reorganized HGE Subsidiaries. Upon the Effective Date, the current members of the Debtors' board of directors and officers shall no longer serve in any such capacity with Reorganized HGE or the Reorganized HGE Subsidiaries and shall be discharged of all duties in connection therewith.

3. Disclosure of any Insiders to be Employed or Retained by the Reorganized Debtors

In accordance with Section 1129(a)(5)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors will disclose on or before the Confirmation Date the identity of any Insider that will be employed or retained by Reorganized HGE, and the nature of any compensation for such Insider.

4. Indemnification of Pre-Effective Date Directors and Officers

Any obligation or agreement of the Debtors to indemnify, reimburse, or limit the liability of any Person, including any officer or director of the Debtors, or any agent, professional, financial advisor, or underwriter of any securities issued by the Debtors, relating to any acts or omissions occurring before the Effective Date, whether arising pursuant to corporate, bylaws, contract or applicable state law, shall be deemed to be, and shall be treated as, a General Unsecured Claim and/or Executory Contract and shall be deemed to be rejected, canceled, and discharged pursuant to the Plan as of the Effective Date and any and all Claims resulting from such obligations are disallowed under section 502(e) of the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable grounds, including section 502(d), or if any court of applicable jurisdiction rules to the contrary, such Claim shall be estimated pursuant to section 502(c) of the Bankruptcy Code in the amount of \$0 or such other amount as the Bankruptcy Court shall determine

I. Distributions Under the Plan

1. Distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims Only

Until a Disputed Claim becomes an Allowed Claim, distributions of Cash and/or other Instruments or Property otherwise available to the Holder of such Claim shall not be made. Prior to the Effective Date, Holders of Allowed Claims shall be required to provide the Disbursing Agent an Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 (or, if applicable, an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8).

2. **Distribution Record Date**

As of the close of business on the Distribution Record Date, the various transfer registers for each of the Classes of Claims as maintained by the Debtors or their agents shall be deemed closed. The Debtors shall have no obligation to recognize, but may, in their sole and absolute discretion, recognize any transfer of any such Claims occurring on or after the Distribution Record Date. Otherwise, the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, will recognize only those record holders of such Claims stated on the transfer ledgers as of the close of business on the Distribution Record Date. Subject to the foregoing, the Distribution Record Date shall be the record date for purposes of making distributions under the Plan.

3. **Disbursing Agent**

Except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the Person(s) designated as a Disbursing Agent, shall make all distributions under the Plan when required by the Plan from the Disbursing Agent Restricted Accounts. A Disbursing Agent shall not be required to give any bond or surety or other security for the performance of its duties unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court.

4. Rights and Powers of Disbursing Agent

The Disbursing Agent shall be empowered to (a) effect all actions and execute all agreements, Instruments and other documents necessary to perform its duties under the Plan, (b) make all distributions contemplated by the Plan, and (c) exercise such other powers as may be vested in the Disbursing Agent by order of the Bankruptcy Court, pursuant to the Plan, or as deemed by the Disbursing Agent to be necessary and proper to implement the provisions of the Plan. All compensation for the Disbursing Agent shall be paid from the Property (including the Plan Consideration) disbursed to the Disbursing Agent pursuant to the Plan.

5. **Delivery of Distributions**

(a) In General

Subject to Bankruptcy Rule 9010 and except as otherwise provided in Section 7.5.2 of the Plan, all distributions to any Holder of an Allowed Claim including, without limitation, distributions of Reorganized HGE Common Stock, and, to the extent applicable, Cash, to Holders of Allowed Claims, shall be made at the address of such Holder as set forth in the Debtors' books and records and/or on the Schedules filed with the Bankruptcy Court unless the Debtors or their Disbursing Agent have been notified in writing of a change of address including, without limitation, by the filing of a Proof of Claim by such Holder that contains an address for such Holder different from the address reflected on such books and records or Schedules for such Holder.

(b) Timing of Distributions

In the event that any payment or act under the Plan is required to be made or performed on a date that is not a Business Day, then the making of such payment or the performance of such act may be completed on the next succeeding Business Day, and if so completed shall be deemed to have been completed as of the required date.

(c) Distributions of Unclaimed Property

In the event that any distribution to any Holder is returned as undeliverable, the Disbursing Agent shall use reasonable efforts to determine the current address of such Holder, but no distribution to such Holder shall be made unless and until the Disbursing Agent has determined the then current address of such Holder, at which time such distribution shall be made to such Holder without interest or accruals of any kind. Such distributions shall be deemed unclaimed property under section 347(b) of the Bankruptcy Code on the six-month anniversary of the date of the attempted delivery of such distribution. After that date, all unclaimed property or interest in property shall revert to Reorganized HGE and the Claim of any Holder to such property or interest in property shall be discharged and forever barred.

6. Time Bar to Cash Payments

Checks issued by the Reorganized Debtors on account of Allowed Claims shall be null and void if not negotiated within ninety (90) days from and after the date of issuance thereof. Holders of Allowed Claims shall make all requests for reissuance of checks to the Reorganized Debtors. Any Claim in respect of a voided check must be made on or before the six-month anniversary of the date of issuance. After such date, all Claims and respective voided checks shall be discharged and forever barred and Reorganized HGE shall retain all monies related thereto.

7. **Setoffs**

The Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors may, but shall not be required to, set off or recoup against any Allowed Claim, and the payments or other distributions to be made pursuant to the Plan in respect of such Allowed Claim, any claims, rights or Causes of Action of any nature whatsoever that the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors may have against the Holder of such Claim; *provided*, *however*, neither the failure to do so nor the allowance of any Claim hereunder shall constitute a waiver or release by the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors of any such claims, rights or Causes of Action.

J. Procedures for Disputed Claims

1. Resolution of Disputed Claims.

Except as set forth in any order of the Bankruptcy Court (including prior bar date orders), any Holder of a Claim against the Debtors shall file a Proof of Claim with the Bankruptcy Court or with the agent designated by the Debtors for this purpose on or before the Claims Bar Date. The Debtors prior to the Effective Date, and thereafter the Reorganized Debtors or Disbursing Agent, shall have the exclusive authority to file objections to Proofs of Claim on or before the Claims Objection Deadline, and to settle, compromise, withdraw or litigate to judgment objections to any and all Claims, regardless of whether classified or otherwise. From and after the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors, or Disbursing Agent may settle or compromise any Disputed Claim without approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

2. Estimation of Claims

Any Debtor may, at any time, request that the Bankruptcy Court estimate any contingent or unliquidated Claim pursuant to section 502(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, regardless of whether such Debtor has previously objected to such Claim or whether the Bankruptcy Court has ruled on such objection, and the Bankruptcy Court shall retain jurisdiction to estimate any Claim at any time during litigation concerning any objection to any Claim, including during the pendency of any appeal related to any such objection. In the event the Bankruptcy Court estimates any contingent or unliquidated Claim, that estimated amount shall constitute either the Allowed amount of such Claim or a maximum limitation on such Claim, as determined by the Bankruptcy Court. If the estimated amount constitutes a maximum limitation on such Claim, the Debtors may elect to pursue any supplemental proceedings to object to any ultimate payment on such Claim. All of the aforementioned objection, estimation and resolution procedures are cumulative and are not necessarily exclusive of one another. Claims may be estimated and thereafter resolved by any permitted mechanism.

3. No Partial Distributions Pending Allowance

Notwithstanding any other provision in the Plan, except as otherwise agreed by the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, no partial payments or distributions shall be made with respect to a Disputed Claim unless and until all objections to such Disputed Claim have been settled or withdrawn or have been determined by a Final Order.

4. **Distributions After Allowance**

To the extent that a Disputed Claim becomes an Allowed Claim, the Disbursing Agent shall distribute to the Holder thereof the distributions, if any, to which such Holder is then entitled under the Plan. Any such distributions shall be made in accordance with and at the time mandated by the Plan. No interest shall be paid on any Disputed Claim that later becomes an Allowed Claim.

K. Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases

1. Assumption of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases

As of the Effective Date, all executory contracts and unexpired leases, including the Transferred Executory Contracts / Unexpired Leases, to which any Debtor is a party and which are listed on the Schedule of Assumed Contracts and Unexpired Leases, to be included in the Plan Supplement, shall be and shall be deemed to be assumed or assumed and assigned in accordance with the provisions and requirements of sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code. All executory contracts and unexpired leases not listed on the Schedule of Assumed Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and not assumed or assumed and assigned prior to the Effective Date or otherwise the subject of a motion to assume or assume and assign filed on or before the Effective Date, and that were not previously rejected, shall be rejected as of the Effective Date in accordance with the provisions and requirements of sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code. Entry of the Confirmation Order by the Bankruptcy Court shall constitute approval of such assumptions or assumptions and assignments and rejections pursuant to sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code. Each executory contract and unexpired lease assumed or assumed and assigned pursuant to the Plan shall vest or re-vest in and be fully enforceable by the applicable Reorganized Debtor, accordance with its terms, except as modified by the provisions of the Plan or any order of the Bankruptcy Court authorizing and providing for its assumption or assumption and assignment or applicable federal law.

2. Cures of Defaults of Assumed Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan, any monetary defaults under each executory contract and unexpired lease to be assumed or assumed and assigned pursuant to the Plan shall be satisfied, pursuant to section 365(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, by payment of the default amount in Cash on the Effective Date or in the ordinary course of business, subject to the limitation described below, or on such other terms as the parties to such executory contracts or unexpired leases may otherwise agree. Any and all cure costs (and other related expenses) related to designation of an executory contract or unexpired lease by the Plan Sponsor shall be paid by the Plan Sponsor in addition to the funding of the Plan Consideration. Any and all cure costs (and other related expenses) related to a Transferred Executory Contracts / Unexpired Leases shall be paid by Guidepost Global. In the event of a dispute regarding: (1) the amount of any payments to cure such a default, (2) the ability of the Reorganized Debtors or any assignee to provide "adequate assurance of future performance" (within the meaning of section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code) under the executory contract or unexpired lease to be assumed or assumed and assigned, or (3) any other matter pertaining to assumption and/or assumption, the cure payments required by section 365(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code shall be made following the entry of a Final Order or orders resolving the dispute and approving the assumption or assumption and assignment; provided, however, based on the Bankruptcy Court's resolution of any such dispute, the applicable Debtor or Reorganized Debtor shall have the right, within 30 days after the entry of such Final Order and subject to approval of the Bankruptcy Court pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, to reject the applicable executory contract or unexpired lease.

Assumption or assumption and assignment of any executory contract or unexpired lease pursuant to the Plan or otherwise shall result in the full release and satisfaction of any Claims or defaults, whether monetary or nonmonetary, including defaults of provisions restricting the change in control or ownership interest composition or other bankruptcy-related defaults, arising under any assumed or assumed and assigned executory contract or unexpired lease at any time prior to the effective date of assumption and/or assignment. Any Proofs of Claim filed with respect to an executory contract or unexpired lease that has been assumed or assumed and assigned shall be deemed disallowed and expunged, without further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court

3. Rejection of Compensation and Benefit Programs

Except as set forth in Section 9.5 of this Plan, all employment, retirement, indemnification, and other compensation or benefits agreements or arrangements shall be rejected, and neither the Plan Sponsor nor Reorganized HGE (nor its Subsidiaries) shall have any obligations in connection with any such employment, retirement, indemnification, and other compensation or benefits agreements or arrangements following the Effective Date.

4. Pass-Through

Any rights or arrangements or other assets necessary or useful to the operation of the Debtors' business but not otherwise addressed by treatment as a Claim or Interest or by assignment under this Plan (the "Pass-Through Assets"), shall, in the absence of any other treatment, but subject to the further agreement and consent of Plan Sponsor with respect to any such rights or arrangements or other assets, be passed through the bankruptcy proceedings for the benefit of the Reorganized HGE (if constituting Reorganized HGE Assets) and shall otherwise be unaltered and unaffected by the bankruptcy filings or the Chapter 11 Cases.

5. **D&O Liability Insurance Policy**

The obligations of the Debtors, if any, to indemnify and/or provide contribution to its current and former directors, officers, employees, managing agents, and attorneys, and such current and former directors' and officers' respective affiliates, pursuant to the Corporate Documents and/or any employment contracts, applicable statutes or other contractual obligations, in respect of all past, present and future actions, suits and proceedings against any of such directors, officers, employees, managing agents, and attorneys, based on any act or omission related to the service with, for or on behalf of the Debtors after the Petition Date or immediately prior to the Petition Date in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases, will be deemed and treated as executory contracts that are rejected by the Debtors pursuant to the Plan and sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code as of the Effective Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the D&O Liability Insurance Policy shall be assumed by the Reorganized Debtor as of the Effective Date, and the Reorganized Debtor agrees to remit any and all amounts received, but no amounts in excess of amounts received, net of deductibles and any and all other obligations or amounts payable by the Reorganized Debtor in connection with the D&O Liability Insurance Policy, for the purposes contemplated by the D&O Liability Insurance Policy. For the avoidance of doubt, neither the Plan Sponsor nor Reorganized HGE (nor its Subsidiaries) shall have any obligations or personal or direct liability whatsoever in connection with any the foregoing, including without limitation any employment, retirement, indemnification, and other agreements or arrangements, following the Effective Date, and the sole recourse of any and all Persons and the sole source of any recovery in connection therewith (if any) shall be against the D&O Liability Insurance Policy.

6. Modifications, Amendments, Supplements, Restatements, or Other Agreements

Unless otherwise provided in the Plan, each executory contract or unexpired lease that is assumed or assumed and assigned shall include all modifications, amendments, supplements, restatements, or other agreements that in any manner affect such executory contract or unexpired lease, and all executory contracts and unexpired leases related thereto, if any, including all easements, licenses, permits, rights, privileges, immunities, options, rights of first refusal, and any other interests, unless any of the foregoing agreements has been previously rejected or repudiated or is rejected or repudiated under the Plan.

Modifications, amendments, supplements, and restatements to prepetition executory contracts and unexpired leases that have been executed by the Debtors during the Chapter 11 Cases shall not be deemed to alter the prepetition nature of the executory contract or unexpired lease, or the validity, priority, or amount of any Claims that may arise in connection therewith.

7. Bar Date for Filing Claims for Rejection Damages

If the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease pursuant to the Plan gives rise to a Claim, a Proof of Claim must be served upon the Debtors and the Debtors' counsel within 30 days after notice of entry of the Effective Date. Any such Claim not served within such time period will be forever barred. Each such Claim will constitute a General Unsecured Claim, to the extent such Claim is Allowed by the Bankruptcy Court.

8. **Reservation of Rights**

Nothing contained in the Plan shall constitute an admission by the Debtors that any executory contract or unexpired lease is in fact an executory contract or unexpired lease or that any of the Reorganized Debtors has any liability thereunder. If there is a dispute regarding whether a contract or lease is or was executory or unexpired at the time of assumption or rejection, the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as

applicable, shall have 30 days following entry of a Final Order resolving such dispute to alter their treatment of such contract or lease.

9. Contracts and Leases Entered Into After the Petition Date

Contracts and leases entered into after the Petition Date by any Debtor, including any executory contracts and unexpired leases assumed by such Debtor, will be performed by the applicable Debtor or Reorganized Debtor liable thereunder in the ordinary course of its business and such contracts and leases (including any assumed executory contracts and unexpired leases) will survive and remain unaffected by entry of the Confirmation Order.

L. Settlement, Releases, Injunctions, and Discharge

1. Comprise and Settlement of Claims, Interests, and Controversies

Unless otherwise set forth in the Plan, pursuant to section 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code, and in consideration for the classification, distributions, releases, and other benefits provided under the Plan, upon the Effective Date, the provisions of the Plan shall constitute a good-faith compromise and settlement of all Claims and Interests, and controversies relating to the contractual, legal, and subordination rights that a Holder of a Claim or Interest may have with respect to any Allowed Claim or Interest, or any distribution to be made on account of such Allowed Claim or Interest. The Plan shall be deemed a motion to approve the good faith compromise and settlement of all such Claims, Interests, and controversies pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019. The entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the compromise or settlement of all such Claims, Interests, and controversies, as well as a finding by the Bankruptcy Court that such compromise or settlement is in the best interests of the Debtors, their Estates, and Holders of Claims and Interests and is fair, equitable, and reasonable. In accordance with the provisions of the Plan, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019, without any further notice to or action, order, or approval of the Bankruptcy Court, after the Effective Date, the Reorganized Debtors may compromise and settle Claims against, and Interests in, the Debtors and their Estates and Causes of Action against other Entities. Subject to Article 7 and Article 8 of the Plan, all distributions made to Holders of Allowed Claims and Allowed Interests, as applicable, in any Class are intended to be and shall be final.

2. Releases by the Debtors

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Plan or the Confirmation Order to the contrary, pursuant to section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, in exchange for good and valuable consideration, including the obligations of the Debtors under this Plan and the contributions and services of the Released Parties in facilitating the reorganization of the Debtors and implementation of the Plan, the adequacy of which is hereby confirmed, on and after the Effective Date, each Released Party is hereby conclusively, absolutely, unconditionally, irrevocably, and forever released, waived, and discharged by and on behalf of each and all of the Debtors, their Estates, and if applicable, the Reorganized Debtors, in each case on behalf of themselves and their respective successors, assigns, and representatives, and any and all other Entities who may purport to assert any Claim or Cause of Action, directly or derivatively, by, through, for, or because of the foregoing Entities, from any and all Claims, Interests, obligations, rights, suites, damages, and Causes of Action whatsoever (including any derivative claims and Avoidance Actions, asserted or assertable on behalf of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and their Estates), whether liquidated or unliquidated, fixed or contingent, matured or unmatured, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, asserted or unasserted, accrued or unaccrued, existing or herein-after arising, whether in law or equity, whether sounding in tort or contract, whether arising under federal or state statutory or common law, or any other applicable international, foreign, or domestic law, rule,

statute, regulation, treaty, right, duty, requirement, or otherwise, that such Holders or their Estates, Affiliates, heirs, executory, administrators, successors, assigns, managers, accountants, attorneys, representatives, consultants, agents, and any other Persons claiming under or through them would have been legally entitled to assert in their own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the Holder of any Claim against or Interest in a Debtor or other Entity, or that any holder of any Claim against or Interest in a Debtor or other Entity could have asserted on behalf of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and their Estates, including without limitation, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, among other things, the Debtors or their Estates (including the capital structure, management, ownership, or operation thereof), the Chapter 11 Cases, the RSA, the Reorganized Debtors (including the capital structure, management, ownership, or operation thereof), the purchase, sale, or rescission of any Security of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and their Estates, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any Claim or Interest that is treated in this Plan, the business or contractual arrangements or interaction between or among any Debtor and any Released Party, the operations and financings in respect of the Debtors (whether before or after the Petition Date), the distribution of any Cash or other property of the Debtors to any Released Party, the assertion of enforcement of rights or remedies against the Debtors, the restructuring of any Claim or Interest before or during the Chapter 11 Cases, including all prior recapitalizations, restructurings, or refinancing efforts and transactions, any Securities issued by the Debtors and the ownership thereof, the Debtors' in- or out-of-court restructuring efforts, the decision to file the Chapter 11 Cases, any intercompany transactions, any related adversary proceedings, the formulation, documentation, preparation, dissemination, solicitation, negotiation, entry into, or filing of the Disclosure Statement, this Plan, the Plan Supplement, the RSA, the DIP Loans, DIP Financing Documents, or any Definitive Document, contract instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Disclosure Statement, the DIP Loans, the DIP Documents, this Plan, the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases, the pursuit of Confirmation, the pursuit of Consummation, the administration and implementation of this Plan, including the issuance or distribution of Securities pursuant to this Plan, or the distribution of property under this Plan or any other related agreement, or upon any other act, or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence taking place on or before, in respect of the foregoing clause, the Effective Date.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the Debtors do not, pursuant to the releases set forth above, release: (a) any Causes of Action identified in the Schedule of Retained Causes of Action; (b) any post-Effective Date obligations of any party or Entity under this Plan, the Confirmation Order or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement this Plan or transactions thereunder; or (c) the rights of any Holder of Allowed Claims to receive distributions under this Plan.

Entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019, of the Debtor Release, which includes by reference each of the related provisions and definitions contained in this Plan, and further, shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's finding that the Debtor Release is: (a) in exchange for the good and valuable consideration provided by the Released Parties, including, the Released Parties' contribution to facilitating the transactions contemplated in the Plan and implementing this Plan; (b) a good faith settlement and compromise of the Claims or Causes of Action released by the Debtor Release; (c) in the best interests of the Debtors and all Holders of Claims and Interests; (d) fair, equitable, and reasonable; (e) given and made after due notice and opportunity for a hearing; and (f) a bar to any of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, or the Debtors' Estates asserting any Claim or Cause of Action released pursuant to the Debtor Release.

3. Releases by Releasing Parties

Notwithstanding anything contained herein or the Confirmation Order to the contrary, pursuant to section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, in exchange for good and valuable consideration, including the obligations of the Debtors under this Plan and the contributions and services of the Released Parties in facilitating the reorganization of the Debtors and implementation of the Plan, the adequacy of which is hereby confirmed, on and after the Effective Date, each Released Party is hereby conclusively, absolutely, unconditionally, irrevocably and forever, released, waived, and discharged by each and all of the Releasing Parties, in each case on behalf of themselves and their respective successors, assigns, and representatives, and any and all other Entities who may purport to assert any Cause of Action, directly or derivatively, by, through, for, or because of the foregoing Entities, from any and all claims and Causes of Action whatsoever (including any derivative claims, asserted or assertable on behalf of any of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and their Estates), obligations, rights, suits, or damages, whether liquidated or unliquidated, fixed, or contingent, matured, or unmatured, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, asserted or unasserted, accrued or unaccrued, existing or herein after arising, whether in law or equity, whether sounding in tort or contract, whether arising under federal or state statutory or common law, or any other applicable international, foreign, or domestic law, rule, statute, regulation, treaty, right, duty, requirement, or otherwise, that such Holders or their Estates, Affiliates, heirs, executory, administrators, successors, assigns, managers, accountants, attorneys, representatives, consultants, agents, and any other Persons claiming under or through them would have would have been legally entitled to assert in their own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the Holder of any Claim against, or Interest in, the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and their Estates, including without limitation, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, among other things, the Debtors or their Estates (including the capital structure, management, ownership, or operation thereof), the Chapter 11 Cases, the Plan, the Reorganized Debtors (including the capital structure, management, ownership, or operation thereof), the purchase, sale, or rescission of any Security of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and their Estates, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any Claim or Interest that is treated in this Plan, the business or contractual arrangements or interaction between or among any Debtor and any Released Party, the operations and financings in respect of the Debtors (whether before or after the Petition Date), the distribution of any Cash or other property of the Debtors to any Released Party, the assertion of enforcement of rights or remedies against the Debtors, the restructuring of any Claim or Interest before or during the Chapter 11 Cases including all prior recapitalizations, restructurings, or refinancing efforts and transactions, any Securities issued by the Debtors and the ownership thereof, the Debtors' in- or out-of-court restructuring efforts, intercompany transactions, the decision to file the Chapter 11 Cases, any related adversary proceedings, the formulation, documentation, preparation, dissemination, solicitation, negotiation, entry into, or filing of the Disclosure Statement, this Plan, the Plan Supplement, the RSA, the DIP Loans, DIP Financing Documents, or any Definitive Document, the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases, the pursuit of Confirmation, the pursuit of Consummation, the administration and implementation of this Plan, including the issuance or distribution of Securities pursuant to this Plan, or the distribution of property under this Plan or any other related agreement, or upon any other act, or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence taking place on or before, in respect of the foregoing clause, the Effective Date; provided, that the provisions of this Third-Party Release shall not operate to waive, release, or otherwise impair any Causes of Action arising from willful misconduct, actual or criminal fraud, or gross negligence of such applicable Released Party as determined by the Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court or any other court of competent jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the Released Parties do not, pursuant to the releases set forth above, release: (a) any Causes of Action identified in the Schedule of Retained Causes of Action; (b) any post-Effective Date obligations of any party or Entity under this Plan, the Confirmation Order, or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement this Plan or transactions thereunder; or (c) the rights of any Holder of Allowed Claims or Interests to receive distributions under this Plan.

Entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Third-Party Release, which includes by reference each of the related provisions and definitions contained in this Plan, and further, shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's finding that the Third-Party Release is: (a) consensual; (b) essential to the Confirmation of this Plan; (c) given in exchange for the good and valuable consideration provided by the Released Parties, including the Released Parties' contributions to facilitating the transactions contemplated in the Plan and implementing this Plan; (d) in the best interests of the Debtors and their Estates; (e) fair, equitable, and reasonable; (f) given and made after due notice and opportunity for a hearing; and (g) a bar to any of the Releasing Parties asserting any Claim or Cause of Action released pursuant to the Third-Party Release.

4. Mutual Releases by RSA Parties

Without duplication of Article 10.3 of the Plan, as of the Effective Date, each of the RSA Parties hereby unconditionally forever releases, waives and discharges all known and unknown Causes of Action of any nature that such RSA Party has asserted, may have asserted, could have asserted, or could in the future assert, directly or indirectly, against any of the other RSA Parties based on any act or omission relating to the Debtors or their business operations (including, without limitation, the organization or capitalization of the Debtors or extensions of credit and other financial services and accommodations made or not made to the Debtors) or the Chapter 11 Cases on or prior to the Effective Date; provided, however, the Mutual Releases shall not apply to Causes of Action that arise post-Effective Date from obligations or rights created under or in connection with the Plan or any agreement provided for or contemplated in the Plan; provided, further, any claims against the Debtors shall not be released under Article 10.4 of the Plan but shall be treated in accordance with this Plan. For the avoidance of doubt, Claims or Causes of Action arising out of, or related to, any act or omission of a RSA Party prior to the Effective Date that are determined by Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court or any other court of competent jurisdiction to have constituted willful misconduct, actual or criminal fraud, or gross negligence, including findings after the Effective Date, are not released pursuant to the Plan

Entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Mutual Release, which includes by reference each of the related provisions and definitions contained in this Plan, and further, shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's finding that the Mutual Release is: (a) consensual; (b) essential to the Confirmation of this Plan; (c) given in exchange for the good and valuable consideration provided by the RSA Parties, including the Released Parties' contributions to facilitating the transactions contemplated in the Plan and implementing this Plan; (d) in the best interests of the Debtors and their Estates; (e) fair, equitable, and reasonable; (f) given and made after due notice and opportunity for a hearing; and (g) a bar to any of the RSA Parties asserting any Claim or Cause of Action released pursuant to this Mutual Release.

5. Exculpation

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, no Exculpated Party will have or incur, and each Exculpated Party will be exculpated from, any Claim or Cause of Action arising prior to or on the

Effective Date in connection with or arising out of the administration of the Chapter 11 Cases, the formulation, documentation, preparation, dissemination, solicitation, negotiation, entry into, or filing of the Disclosure Statement, this Plan, the Plan Supplement, the RSA, the DIP Loans, DIP Financing Documents, or any Definitive Document, the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases, the solicitation of votes for, or Confirmation or Consummation of, this Plan, the funding of this Plan, the occurrence of the Effective Date, the administration of this Plan or the property to be distributed under this Plan, the issuance of Securities under or in connection with this Plan, the purchase, sale, or rescission of the purchase or sale of any Security of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, if applicable, in connection with this Plan or the transactions in furtherance of any of the foregoing, other than Claims or Causes of Action in each case arising out of or related to any act or omission of an Exculpated Party that is a criminal act or constitutes actual fraud, willful misconduct, or gross negligence as determined by a Final Order, but in all respects such Persons will be entitled to reasonably rely upon the advice of counsel with respect to their duties and responsibilities pursuant to this Plan. The Exculpated Parties have acted in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code with regard to the solicitation and distribution of Securities pursuant to this Plan and, therefore, are not, and on account of such distributions will not be, liable at any time for the violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing the solicitation of acceptances or rejections of this Plan or such distributions made pursuant to this Plan, including the issuance of Securities thereunder. The exculpation will be in addition to, and not in limitation of, all other releases, indemnities, exculpations, and any other applicable law or rules protecting such Exculpated Parties from liability.

The Exculpated Parties have, and upon Confirmation shall be deemed to have, participated in good faith and in compliance with the applicable laws with regard to the solicitation of votes and distribution of consideration pursuant to this Plan and, therefore, are not, and on account of such distributions shall not be, liable at any time for the violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing the solicitation of acceptances or rejections of this Plan or such distributions made pursuant to this Plan.

Solely with respect to the exculpation provisions, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Plan, each of the Exculpated Parties and the 1125(e) Exculpation Parties shall not incur liability for any Cause of Action or Claim related to any act or omission in connection with, relating to, or arising out of, in whole or in part, (a) the solicitation of acceptance or rejection of the Plan in good faith and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code or (b) the participation, in good faith and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, in the offer, issuance, sale, or purchase of a security, offered or sold under the Plan. No Entity or Person may commence or pursue a Claim or Cause of Action of any kind against any of the Exculpated Parties or 1125(e) Exculpation Parties that arose or arises from, in whole or in part, a Claim or Cause of Action subject to the terms of this paragraph, without this Court (i) first determining, after notice and a hearing, that such Claim or Cause of Action represents a colorable Claim for actual fraud, gross negligence, or willful misconduct against any such Exculpated Party or 1125(e) Exculpation Party and such party is not exculpated pursuant to this provision; and (ii) specifically authorizing such Entity or Person to bring such Claim or Cause of Action against any such Exculpated Party or 1125(e) Exculpation Party. The Bankruptcy Court will have sole and exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate the underlying colorable Claim or Causes of Action.

6. **Injunction**

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Plan or the Confirmation Order or for obligations or distributions issued or required to be paid pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order, effective as of the Effective Date, all Entities that have held, hold, or may hold Claims, Interests,

Causes of Action, or liabilities that have been released, discharged, or are subject to exculpation are permanently enjoined, from and after the Effective Date, from taking any of the following actions against, as applicable, the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, the Exculpated Parties, the 1125(e) Exculpation Parties, or the Released Parties: (a) commencing or continuing in any manner any action, suit, or other proceeding of any kind on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims, Interests, Causes of Action, or liabilities; (b) enforcing, attaching, collecting, or recovering by any manner or means any judgment, award, decree, or order against such Entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims, Interests, Causes of Action, or liabilities; (c) creating, perfecting, or enforcing any encumbrance of any kind against such Entities or the property or the estates of such Entities on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims, Interests, Causes of Action or liabilities; (d) asserting any right of setoff or subrogation, or recoupment, of any kind against any obligation due from such Entities or against the property of such Entities or the Estates on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims, Interests, Causes of Action, or liabilities unless such Holder has filed a motion requesting the right to perform such setoff on or before the Effective Date or has filed a Proof of Claim or proof of Interest indicating that such Holder asserts, has, or intends to preserve any right of setoff pursuant to applicable law or otherwise; and (e) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind on account of or in connection with or with respect to any such Claims, Interests, Causes of Action, or liabilities released, settled or subject to exculpation pursuant to this Plan. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the injunction set forth above does not enjoin the enforcement of any obligations arising on or after the Effective Date of any Person or Entity under this Plan, any post-Effective Date transaction contemplated by the Plan, or any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement this Plan.

Upon entry of the Confirmation Order, all Holders of Claims and Interests and their respective current and former employees, agents, officers, directors, managers, principals, and direct and indirect Affiliates, in their capacities as such, shall be enjoined from taking any actions to interfere with the implementation or Consummation of this Plan. Each Holder of an Allowed Claim or Allowed Interest, as applicable, by accepting, or being eligible to accept, distributions under or reinstatement of such Claim or Interest, as applicable, pursuant to this Plan, shall be deemed to have consented to the injunction provisions set forth in Article 10.6 of the Plan.

No Person or Entity may commence or pursue a Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, of any kind against the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, the Exculpated Parties, the 1125(e) Exculpation Parties, or the Released Parties, as applicable, that relates to or is reasonably likely to relate to any act or omission in connection with, relating to, or arising out of a Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, subject to Article 10.2, Article 10.3, Article 10.4, and Article 10.5 hereof, without the Bankruptcy Court (1) first determining, after notice and a hearing, that such Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, represents a colorable Claim of any kind, and (2) specifically authorizing such Person or Entity to bring such Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, against any such Debtor, Reorganized Debtor, Exculpated Party, 1125(e) Exculpation Party, or Released Party, as applicable. The Bankruptcy Court will have sole and exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate the underlying colorable Claim or Causes of Action.

BY ACCEPTING DISTRIBUTIONS PURSUANT TO THE PLAN, EACH HOLDER OF AN ALLOWED CLAIM OR ALLOWED INTEREST EXTINGUISHED, DISCHARGED, OR RELEASED PURSUANT TO THE PLAN WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE AFFIRMATIVELY AND SPECIFICALLY CONSENTED TO BE BOUND BY THE PLAN, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE INJUNCTIONS SET FORTH IN <u>ARTICLE 10.6</u> of the Plan.

THE INJUNCTIONS IN <u>ARTICLE 10.6</u> OF THE PLAN SHALL EXTEND TO ANY SUCCESSORS OF THE DEBTORS, THE REORGANIZED DEBTORS, THE RELEASED PARTIES, THE EXCULPATED PARTIES, AND THE 1125(E) EXCULPATED PARTIES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPERTY AND INTERESTS IN PROPERTY.

Any Person injured by any willful violation of such injunction may seek to recover actual damages, including costs and attorneys' fees and, in appropriate circumstances, may seek to recover punitive damages from the willful violator.

7. Discharge of Claims and Termination of Interests

Pursuant to section 1141(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, and except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan or in any contract, instrument, or other agreement or document created pursuant to the Plan, the distributions, rights, and treatment that are provided in the Plan shall be in complete satisfaction, discharge, and release, effective as of the Effective Date, of Claims (including any Intercompany Claims resolved or compromised after the Effective Date by the Reorganized Debtors), Interests, and Causes of Action of any nature whatsoever, including any interest accrued on Claims or Interests from and after the Petition Date, whether known or unknown, against, liabilities of, Liens on, obligations of, rights against, and Interests in, the Debtors or any of their assets or properties, regardless of whether any property shall have been distributed or retained pursuant to the Plan on account of such Claims and Interests, including demands, liabilities, and Causes of Action that arose before the Effective Date, any liability (including withdrawal liability) to the extent such Claims or Interests relate to services performed by employees of the Debtors prior to the Effective Date and that arise from a termination of employment, any contingent or non-contingent liability on account of representations or warranties issued on or before the Effective Date, and all debts of the kind specified in sections 502(g), 502(h), or 502(i) of the Bankruptcy Code, in each case whether or not: (1) a Proof of Claim based upon such debt or right is filed or deemed filed pursuant to section 501 of the Bankruptcy Code; (2) a Claim or Interest based upon such debt, right, or Interest is Allowed pursuant to section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code; or (3) the Holder of such a Claim or Interest has accepted the Plan or voted to reject the Plan. The Confirmation Order shall be a judicial determination of the discharge of all Claims and Interests subject to the occurrence of the Effective Date, except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan.

M. Conditions Precedent to Confirmation and Consummation of the Plan

1. Conditions Precedent to Confirmation

It shall be a condition precedent to Confirmation of the Plan that the following conditions shall have been satisfied or waived pursuant to the provisions of Section 11.3 of the Plan:

- (a) The RSA shall not have been terminated;
- (b) No termination event or continuing event of default under the DIP Loan Facility Order shall have occurred;
- (c) the Confirmation Order shall be in a form and substance acceptable to the Debtors, the Plan Sponsor, and for the avoidance of doubt, shall provide for Plan Sponsor and Senior DIP Lender, subject to its exercise of the Subscription Option, to be issued 100% of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock free and clear of all liens, claims, rights, interests, security interests and encumbrances of any kind (other than those expressly identified in writing as acceptable to Plan Sponsor in its sole and absolute discretion);

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- (d) the Plan shall be in form and substance reasonably acceptable to the Debtors and the Plan Sponsor;
- (e) the final version of the Plan Supplement and all of the schedules, documents, and exhibits contained therein shall have been filed with the Bankruptcy Court and the same shall be in form and substance reasonably acceptable to the Debtors and the Plan Sponsor; and
- (f) no termination event, breach or failure to company with the terms of the Definitive Documents, the Confirmation Order or any other material final order of the Bankruptcy Court shall have occurred and be continuing.

2. Conditions Precedent to the Effective Date

It shall be a condition precedent to the Effective Date of the Plan that the following conditions shall have been satisfied or waived pursuant to the provisions of Section 11.3 of the Plan:

- (a) all conditions to Confirmation in Section 11.1 of the Plan shall have been either (and shall continue to be) satisfied or waived pursuant to Section 11.3 of the Plan;
 - (b) all documents required under the Plan, including lien releases, shall have been delivered;
- (c) the Confirmation Order, in form and substance reasonably acceptable to the Debtors and the Plan Sponsor and shall have been entered and shall have become a Final Order;
- (d) the Plan Consideration, together with the Cash-on-Hand, shall be sufficient to fund all Plan obligations;
- (e) the Debtors and Insiders shall not have caused or permitted to occur an "ownership change" as such term is used in section 382 of title 26 of the United States Code;
- (f) the Plan Sponsor shall have wired the Plan Consideration to the Disbursing Agent, as applicable;
 - (g) the Debtors shall have wired the Cash-on-Hand to the Disbursing Agent;
- (h) all actions, documents, certificates, and agreements necessary to implement the Plan, including documents contained in the Plan Supplement, shall have been effected or executed and delivered, as the case may be, to the required parties and, to the extent required, filed with the applicable governmental units in accordance with applicable laws;
- (i) the Reorganized HGE Common Stock and any and all agreements and documents relating thereto shall have been executed, issued and delivered by the Reorganized Debtors; and
- (j) the Professional Holdback Escrow Account shall have been fully funded as required pursuant to the Plan

N. Waiver of Conditions

The conditions to Confirmation and the Effective Date set forth in Section 11.3 may be waived by the Debtors (with the express written consent of the Plan Sponsor) without notice, leave, or order of the Bankruptcy Court or any formal action other than proceedings to confirm or consummate the Plan.

O. Effective of Failure of Conditions

If Consummation does not occur, the Plan shall be null and void in all respects, and nothing contained in the Plan or the Disclosure Statement shall: (a) constitute a waiver or release of any claims by the Debtors, any Holders of Claims or Interests, or any other Entity; (b) prejudice in any manner the rights of the Debtors, any Holders of Claims or Interests, or any other Entity; or (c) constitute an admission, acknowledgment, offer, or undertaking by the Debtors, any Holders of Claims or Interests, or any other Entity in any respect.

P. Substantial Consummation

On the Effective Date, the Plan shall be deemed to be substantially consummated under sections 1101 and 1127(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Q. Amendment, Modification, and Severability of Plan Provisions

If, prior to Confirmation, any term or provision hereof is held by the Bankruptcy Court to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the Bankruptcy Court, at the request of the Debtors (with the express written consent of the Plan Sponsor), shall have the power to alter and interpret such term or provision to make it valid or enforceable to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with the original purpose of the term or provision held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, and such term or provision shall then be applicable as altered or interpreted. Notwithstanding any such holding, alteration, or interpretation, the remainder of the terms and provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated by such holding, alteration, or interpretation. The Confirmation Order shall constitute a judicial determination and shall provide that each term and provision hereof, as it may have been altered or interpreted in accordance with the foregoing, is valid and enforceable pursuant to its terms. The Plan may be amended or modified before the Effective Date by the Debtors (with the express written consent of the Plan Sponsor) to the extent provided by section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code.

- (a) The Debtors reserve the right to modify or amend the Plan (with the express written consent of the Plan Sponsor) upon a determination by the Bankruptcy Court that the Plan, in its current form, is not confirmable pursuant to section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code. To the extent such a modification or amendment is permissible under section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code, without the need to resolicit acceptances, the Debtors reserve the right to sever any provisions of the Plan that the Bankruptcy Court finds objectionable.
- (b) The Debtors reserve the right to revoke or withdraw the Plan prior to the Confirmation Date (with the express written consent of the Plan Sponsor). If the Debtors revoke or withdraw the Plan, or if Confirmation does not occur, then the Plan shall be null and void, and nothing contained in the Plan shall: (1) constitute a waiver or release of any Claims by or against, or any Interests in, the Debtors; or (2) prejudice in any manner the rights of the Debtors in any further proceedings.

ARTICLE VIII. <u>Solicitation, Voting, and Related Matters</u>¹⁸

A. Overview

HOLDERS OF CLAIMS ENTITLED TO VOTE SHOULD CAREFULLY READ THE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

THE DEBTORS RESERVE THE RIGHT, AT ANY TIME OR FROM TIME TO TIME, TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF TIME (ON A DAILY BASIS, IF NECESSARY) DURING WHICH BALLOTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON, INCLUDING DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF ACCEPTANCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. THE DEBTORS WILL GIVE NOTICE OF ANY SUCH EXTENSION IN A MANNER DEEMED REASONABLE TO THE DEBTORS IN THEIR DISCRETION. THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE DEBTORS WILL EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO EXTEND THE VOTING DEADLINE.

In accordance with the Order (I) Conditionally Approving the Disclosure Statement; (II) Scheduling a Combined Disclosure Statement Approval and Plan Confirmation Hearing; (III) Establishing a Plan and Disclosure Statement Objection Deadline and Related Procedures; (IV) Approving the Solicitation and Notice Procedures; and (V) Granting Related Relief (the "Disclosure Statement Order")¹⁹ and the solicitation procedures approved via the Disclosure Statement Order (the "Solicitation Procedures"), the Debtors will commence solicitation of the Plan by delivering a copy of the Solicitation Package to Holders of Claims in Classes 1, 2, 3, and 6 entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

The Debtors have sought and obtained Bankruptcy Court approval of Solicitation Procedures for solicitation of acceptance of the Plan and to establish **August 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** (**prevailing Central Time**) as the deadline for the receipt of votes to accept or reject the Plan via the Ballot applicable ballot to be used for voting on the Plan (the "**Voting Deadline**"). For the avoidance of doubt, the Voting Deadline includes the deadline by which Opt-Out Forms or Opt-In Forms, as applicable, must be executed, completed, and returned to the Claims and Noticing Agent.

This Disclosure Statement and the Plan are being distributed to Holders of Claims in the Voting Classes comprised of Classes 1, 2, 3, and 6 in connection with the solicitation of votes to accept or reject the Plan. The following table sets forth the timetable for the solicitation process and the anticipated Chapter 11 Cases, with all provided below being subject to the approval and availability of the Bankruptcy Court.

Proposed Solicitation and Confirmation Timeline			
Voting Record Date	July 22, 2025		
Commence Solicitation	No later than July 25, 2025		
Publication Deadline	On or before the date that is three (3) Business Days after entry of the Disclosure Statement Order, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter		
Plan Supplement Deadline	No later than August 22, 2025		

¹⁸ Subject to change based on Court approval of dates and related procedures.

¹⁹ See Docket No. [•].

Proposed Solicitation and Confirmation Timeline			
Voting Deadline	August 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time)		
Deadline to Object to Approval of Disclosure Statement or Confirmation of Plan	August 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time)		
Deadline to File Briefs in Support of Approval of Disclosure Statement and Confirmation	August 29, 2025		
Combined Hearing to Approve Disclosure Statement and Confirm Plan	September 3, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (prevailing Central Time)		

B. Holders of Claims Entitled to Vote on the Plan

Under the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, not all holders of claims against or interests in a debtor are entitled to vote on a chapter 11 plan. Holders of Claims in Classes 1, 2, 3, and 6 are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. The Holders of Claims in the Voting Classes are Impaired under the Plan and, if the Plan is confirmed and consummated, may receive a distribution under the Plan. Accordingly, Holders of Claims in the Voting Classes have the right to vote to accept or reject the Plan. The Debtors are not soliciting votes on the Plan from Holders of Claims or Interests in Classes 4, 5, 7, 8, or 9.

THE DISCUSSION OF THE SOLICITATION AND VOTING PROCESS SET FORTH IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS ONLY A SUMMARY. PLEASE REFER TO THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT ORDER AND SOLICITATION PROCEDURES FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE SOLICITATION AND VOTING PROCESS.

C. Voting Record Date

<u>July 22, 2025</u> (the "Voting Record Date") is the date that was used for determining which Holders of Claims are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan and receive the Solicitation Package in accordance with the Solicitation Procedures. Except as otherwise set forth herein, the Voting Record Date and all of the Debtors' solicitation and voting procedures shall apply to all of the Debtors' creditors and other parties in interest.

D. Solicitation Procedures

The following materials constitute the solicitation package (the "Solicitation Package") distributed to Holders of Claims in each Voting Class:

- the appropriate Ballot and applicable voting instructions, including the Opt-Out Form, together with a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid return envelope; and
- this Disclosure Statement and all exhibits hereto, including the Plan and all exhibits thereto (which may be distributed in paper or USB-flash drive format).

The Debtors will distribute the Solicitation Package to Holders of Claims in each Voting Class by July 25, 2025. The Debtors will file the Plan Supplement in accordance with the terms of the Plan and the timeline provided by the Disclosure Statement Order. As the Plan Supplement is updated or otherwise

modified, such modified or updated documents will be made available on the Debtors' restructuring website. The Debtors will not serve paper or USB-flash drive copies of the Plan Supplement.

You may obtain copies of any pleadings filed with the Bankruptcy Court, including the Plan, the Plan Supplement, and this Disclosure Statement for free by visiting the Debtors' restructuring website, www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround, or for a fee at https://txnb.uscourts.gov/.

E. Voting Procedures

In order for the Holder of a Claim in a Voting Class to have such Holder's Ballot counted as a vote to accept or reject the Plan, such Holder's Ballot must be properly executed, completed, and delivered such that it is **actually received** before the Voting Deadline by the Claims and Noticing Agent, in accordance and in compliance with the Solicitation Procedures established by the Disclosure Statement Order.

IF A BALLOT IS RECEIVED AFTER THE VOTING DEADLINE, IT WILL NOT BE COUNTED UNLESS THE DEBTORS DETERMINE OTHERWISE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A HOLDER OF A CLAIM IN A VOTING CLASS FOLLOWS THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED ON SUCH HOLDER'S BALLOT.

F. Voting Tabulation

The Debtor's tabulation of Ballots shall be conducted in accordance with the Solicitation Procedures. A Ballot does not constitute, and shall not be deemed to be, a Proof of Claim or an assertion or admission of a Claim. Only Holders of Claims in the Voting Classes shall be entitled to vote with regard to such Claims.

Unless the Debtors decide otherwise, Ballots received after the Voting Deadline may not be counted. A Ballot will be deemed delivered only when the Claims and Noticing Agent actually receives the executed Ballot as instructed in the applicable voting instructions.

The Bankruptcy Code may require the Debtors to disseminate additional solicitation materials if the Debtors make material changes to the terms of the Plan or if the Debtors waive a material condition to confirmation of the Plan. In that event, the solicitation will be extended to the extent directed by the Bankruptcy Court.

To the extent there are multiple Claims within a Voting Class, the Debtors may, in their discretion, and to the extent possible, aggregate the Claims of any particular Holder within a Voting Class for the purpose of counting votes.

In the event a designation of lack of good faith is requested by a party in interest under section 1126(e) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Court will determine whether any vote to accept and/or reject the Plan cast with respect to that Claim will be counted for purposes of determining whether the Plan has been accepted and/or rejected.

The following Ballots shall not be counted in determining the acceptance or rejection of the Plan: (i) any Ballot that is illegible or contains insufficient information to permit the identification of the holder of such Claim; (ii) any Ballot cast by any Entity that does not hold a Claim in a Voting Class; (iii) any Ballot cast for a Claim scheduled as unliquidated, contingent, or disputed for which no Proof of Claim was timely filed by the Voting Record Date (unless the applicable bar date has not yet passed, in which case such Claim shall be entitled to vote in the amount of \$1.00); (iv) any unsigned Ballot or Ballot lacking an original signature; (v) any Ballot not marked to accept or reject the Plan or marked both to accept and

reject the Plan; (vi) any Ballot sent to any of the Debtors, the Debtors' agents or representatives, or the Debtors' advisors (other than the Claims and Noticing Agent); and (vii) any Ballot submitted by any Entity not entitled to vote pursuant to the procedures described in the Disclosure Statement Order. Please refer to your Ballot, the Disclosure Statement Order, and the Solicitation Procedures for additional requirements with respect to voting to accept or reject the Plan.

The Debtors will file a voting report (the "Voting Report") with the Bankruptcy Court by no later than two (2) days before the Combined Hearing. The Voting Report shall, among other things, delineate every Ballot that does not conform to the voting instructions or that contains any form of irregularity including, but not limited to, those Ballots that are late or (in whole or in material part) illegible, unidentifiable, lacking signatures, or lacking necessary information, received via facsimile, or damaged (in each case, an "Irregular Ballot"). The Debtors will attempt to reconcile the amount of any Claim reported on a Ballot with the Debtors' records, but in the event such amount cannot be timely reconciled without undue effort on the part of the Debtors, the amount shown in the Debtors' records shall govern. The Voting Report shall indicate the Debtors' intentions with regard to each Irregular Ballot. Neither the Debtors nor any other Person or Entity will be under any duty to provide notification of defects or irregularities with respect to delivered Ballots other than as provided in the Voting Report, nor will any of them incur any liability for failure to provide such notification.

PLEASE REFER TO YOUR BALLOT, THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT ORDER, AND THE SOLICITATION PROCEDURES FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO VOTING TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN.

G. Votes Required for Acceptance by a Class

Under the Bankruptcy Code, acceptance of a plan of reorganization by a class of claims or interests is determined by calculating the amount and, if a class of claims, the number, of claims and interests voting to accept, as a percentage of the allowed claims or interests, as applicable, that have voted. Acceptance by a class of claims requires an affirmative vote of more than one-half (1/2) in number of total allowed claims that have voted and an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) in dollar amount of the total allowed claims that have voted. Acceptance by a class of interests requires an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount of the total allowed interests that have voted.

H. Certain Factors to Be Considered Prior to Voting

There are a variety of factors that all Holders of Claims entitled to vote on the Plan should consider prior to voting to accept or reject the Plan. These factors may impact recoveries under the Plan and include, among other things:

- unless otherwise specifically indicated, the financial information contained in this Disclosure Statement has not been audited and is based on an analysis of data available at the time of the preparation of the Plan and the Disclosure Statement;
- although the Debtors believe that the Plan complies with all applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors can neither assure such compliance nor that the Bankruptcy Court will confirm the Plan;
- the Debtors may request Confirmation without the acceptance of the Plan by all Impaired Classes in accordance with section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code; and

• any delays of either Confirmation or Consummation could result in, among other things, increased Administrative Claims and Professional Fee Claims.

While these factors could affect distributions available to Holders of Allowed Claims and Allowed Interests under the Plan, the occurrence or impact of such factors may not necessarily affect the validity of the vote of the Voting Classes or necessarily require a re-solicitation of the votes of Holders of Claims in the Voting Classes pursuant to section 1127 of the Bankruptcy Code.

For a further discussion of risk factors, please refer to "Risk Factors" described in <u>Article X</u> of this Disclosure Statement.

ARTICLE IX.

Final Approval of the Disclosure Statement Confirmation of the Plan

A. The Confirmation Hearing

At the Confirmation Hearing, the Bankruptcy Court will determine whether to approve the Disclosure Statement and whether the Plan should be confirmed in light of both the affirmative requirements of the Bankruptcy Code and objections, if any, that are timely filed. The Confirmation Hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice except for an announcement of the adjourned date made at the Confirmation Hearing or the filing of a notice of such adjournment served in accordance with the order approving the Solicitation Procedures.

B. Deadline to Object to Approval of the Disclosure Statement and Confirmation of the Plan

The Debtors will provide notice of the Confirmation Hearing, and, if approved by the Bankruptcy Court, the notice will provide that objections to the Disclosure Statement and Confirmation of the Plan must be filed and served at or before **August 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** (prevailing Central Time) (the "Objection Deadline"). Unless objections to the Disclosure Statement or Confirmation of the Plan are timely served and filed, they may not be considered by the Bankruptcy Court.

C. Requirements for Approval of the Disclosure Statement

Pursuant to section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, solicitation of votes to accept or reject a chapter 11 plan must comply with applicable federal or state securities laws and regulations (including the registration and disclosure requirements thereof) or, if such laws and regulations do not apply, provide "adequate information" under section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code. At the Confirmation Hearing, the Debtors will seek a determination from the Court that the Disclosure Statement satisfies section 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

D. Requirements for Confirmation of the Plan

Among the requirements for Confirmation are the following: (a) the Plan is accepted by all impaired Classes of Claims and Interests or, if the Plan is rejected by an Impaired Class, at least one Impaired Class of Claims or Interests has voted to accept the Plan and a determination that the Plan "does not discriminate unfairly" and is "fair and equitable" as to Holders of Claims or Interests in all rejecting Impaired Classes; (b) the Plan is feasible; and (c) the Plan is in the "best interests" of Holders of Impaired Claims and Interests (*i.e.*, Holders of Class 1 Claims, Holders of Class 2 Claims, Holders of Class 3 Claims, Holders of Class 6 Claims, Holders of Class 7 Claims, Holders of Class 8 Interests, and Holders of Class 9 Interests).

At the Confirmation Hearing, the Bankruptcy Court will determine whether the Plan satisfies the requirements of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors believe that the Plan satisfies or will satisfy all of the necessary requirements of chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Specifically, in addition to other applicable requirements, the Debtors believe that the Plan satisfies or will satisfy the applicable Confirmation requirements of section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code set forth below.

- The Plan complies with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.
- The Debtors, as the Plan proponents, have complied with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.
- The Plan has been proposed in good faith and not by any means forbidden by law.
- Any payment made or promised under the Plan for services or for costs and expenses in, or in connection with, the Chapter 11 Cases, or in connection with the Plan and incident to the Chapter 11 Cases, will be disclosed to the Bankruptcy Court, and any such payment: (a) made before confirmation will be reasonable or (b) will be subject to the approval of the Bankruptcy Court as reasonable, if it is to be fixed after confirmation.
- Either each Holder of an Impaired Claim against or Interest in the Debtors will accept the Plan, or each non-accepting Holder will receive or retain under the Plan on account of such Claim or Interest, property of a value, as of the Effective Date, that is not less than the amount that the Holder would receive or retain if the Debtors were liquidated on that date under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- Except to the extent that the Holder of a particular Claim agrees to a different treatment of its Claim, the Plan provides that, to the extent an Allowed Administrative Claim has not already been paid in full or otherwise satisfied during the Chapter 11 Cases, Allowed Administrative Claims will be paid in full on the Effective Date, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable.
- Each Class of Claims has accepted the Plan or is Unimpaired and deemed to have accepted the Plan, or that the requirements of section 1129(b) have been met.
- Confirmation is not likely to be followed by liquidation or the need for further financial reorganization of the Debtors or any successors thereto under the Plan.
- All fees of the type described in section 1930 of the Judicial Code, including the Statutory Fees of the U.S. Trustee, will be paid as of the Effective Date.

E. Best Interests of Creditors/Liquidation Analysis

1. **Introduction**

To demonstrate compliance with the "best interests" test, the Debtors, with the assistance of their advisors and Professionals, prepared a liquidation analysis, attached hereto as $\underline{\text{Exhibit } C}$ (the "Liquidation Analysis"), showing that the value of the distributions provided to Holders of Allowed Claims and

To be (a) filed by the Debtors on or before the deadline by which the Debtors must file the Plan Supplement and (b) made available at the website maintained by the Claims and Noticing Agent at www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround (free of charge).

Interests under the Plan would be the same or greater than under a hypothetical chapter 7 liquidation, assuming that the Chapter 11 Cases were converted to chapter 7 proceedings and chapter 7 trustees were appointed for each Debtor entity. This analysis seeks to estimate the recoveries that would be realized by creditors in such a scenario and compare those recoveries with the treatment creditors will receive under the Plan.

As set forth in detail below and in the Liquidation Analysis, the Debtors believe that, in a hypothetical liquidation, the recovery to creditors would be substantially lower than under the Plan. By contrast, in a chapter 7 liquidation, distributions to General Unsecured Creditors would likely be nonexistent, and secured creditors would face the risk of receiving significantly less than agreed-upon treatment provided for under the Plan.

2. Methodology and Assumptions

The Liquidation Analysis is a hypothetical exercise based on a number of assumptions that are necessarily speculative and uncertain. The estimated outcomes presented herein are not predictions or guarantees of actual results, but rather reasonable estimates based on the Debtors' books and records, historical performance, asset valuations, and market conditions, as of the date of this Disclosure Statement.

For the purpose of the Liquidation Analysis, it is assumed that the Chapter 11 Cases would be converted to chapter 7 on the Effective Date of the Plan and that chapter 7 trustees would be appointed immediately thereafter. These trustees would be responsible for winding down the Debtors' estates, marshalling and liquidating all assets, reconciling claims, and distributing proceeds in accordance with the priority scheme established by the Bankruptcy Code.

The Liquidation Analysis assumes that all of the Debtors' tangible and intangible assets would be liquidated through a combination of piecemeal sales, auctions, or bulk transfers. Additionally, the analysis assumes that the chapter 7 trustees would incur substantial costs in the form of trustee commissions, professional fees, wind-down expenses, and other costs. The Debtors also assume that a liquidation would take considerable time, likely extending well beyond one year, during which the value of the estates could further deteriorate due to delayed realization of proceeds and market volatility.

3. **Assets in Liquidation**

The Debtors' principal assets consist of the Schools, cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and fixed assets, intellectual property rights, and rights under certain contracts and licenses. Based on the Debtors' most recent audited financial statements, the Debtors believe they also have approximately \$243 million of federal net operating losses, \$174 million of state net operating losses, and \$2.5 million of foreign net operating losses as of the Petition Date. Each category of asset would face unique challenges in a chapter 7 liquidation and the Debtors would recover substantially less in a chapter 7 liquidation sale.

4. Administrative Expenses in Chapter 7

The cost of administering a chapter 7 liquidation would be substantial. In addition to Statutory Fees owed to the Office of the United States Trustee, chapter 7 trustees would be entitled to commissions based on distributions made, typically up to 3%–5% of the gross proceeds. Trustees would likely retain their own financial advisors, accountants, and attorneys to assist in the liquidation and claims reconciliation processes. Professional fees in a liquidation are typically higher than in a going-concern restructuring due to inefficiencies, regulatory delays, and the lack of institutional knowledge regarding the Debtors' operations.

Additional expenses would arise from the need to wind down business operations, address federal and state regulatory compliance issues, and dispose of inventory and intellectual property. Furthermore, tax obligations may arise upon asset sales, and litigation risks could increase in the absence of the negotiated releases and settlements embodied in the Plan. All of these costs would be paid ahead of any distributions to General Unsecured Creditors, thereby significantly reducing the funds available to satisfy creditor claims.

5. Estimated Recoveries Under Chapter 7 vs. the Plan

Under the Debtors' Plan, all RSA Parties (with the exception of a \$500,000 distribution to Ray Girn on behalf of his Bridge CN-3 Claim) are waiving their rights to Plan distributions in effort to yield some recoveries for the Debtors' general unsecured creditors. Without this Plan and without the Plan Contribution by the Plan Sponsor, the Debtors' general unsecured creditors would recover nothing while the RSA Parties and other prepetition secured creditors would recover minimal amounts, if anything, on account of their secured claims.

By contrast, in a chapter 7 liquidation scenario, and without the RSA Parties' concessions and without the Plan Contribution by the Plan Sponsor, the Debtors believe that secured creditors would recover only a fraction of their claims (if anything) due to fire-sale discounts on transferred assets and the costs of liquidation. General unsecured creditors, which include numerous trade vendors, service providers, landlords, and employees, would receive nothing distribution. Even so, the Debtors believe that the administrative costs of the estates would entirely consume any remaining Cash and liquidation proceeds available, leaving nothing for general unsecured creditors, which include numerous trade vendors, service providers, landlords, and employees.

Therefore, while the Plan contemplates general unsecured creditors recovering *pro rata* on account of their Allowed Claims, a chapter 7 liquidation would likely result no distributions for general unsecured creditors and any recoveries for secured creditors would be materially diminished.

6. **Conclusion**

The Debtors believe that confirmation and implementation of the Plan will yield a substantially greater return for creditors and stakeholders than would be available in a chapter 7 liquidation. The Plan maximizes the value of the Debtors' assets through a carefully structured series of transactions and settlement of claims with certain secured creditors, which preserves the Debtors' going concern value, and relies on contributions from the Plan Sponsor. The Plan also avoids the unnecessary administrative expenses, delays, and value destruction associated with a piecemeal liquidation of the Debtors' assets. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the Plan satisfies the "best interests of creditors" test under section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code and represents the most favorable outcome for all creditors and interest holders.

F. Feasibility/Financial Projections

1. **Introduction**

Section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code requires, as a condition to confirmation of a Chapter 11 plan, that the Bankruptcy Court find that confirmation of the plan is not likely to be followed by the liquidation, or the need for further financial reorganization, of the debtor or any successor under the plan, unless such liquidation or reorganization is proposed under the plan. This requirement is commonly referred to as the "feasibility" standard. This section demonstrates that the Plan proposed by the Debtors and the Plan Sponsor meets the feasibility requirement of section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code. Based on a

detailed assessment of the Debtors' post-emergence business operations, funding sources, and creditor treatment, the Plan is feasible and is not likely to be followed by liquidation or the need for further reorganization.

For purposes of determining whether the Plan meets this requirement, the Debtors have analyzed their ability to meet their obligations under the Plan. As part of this analysis, the Debtors have prepared certain unaudited pro forma financial statements with regard to the Reorganized Debtors (the "Financial Projections"); the underlying projections and assumptions upon which the Financial Projections are based are attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.²¹ Based on these Financial Projections, the Debtors believe the reorganization contemplated by the Plan meets the financial feasibility requirement and sufficient funds will exist to make all payments required by the Plan. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that the Plan satisfies the feasibility requirement of section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code.

2. Overview of the Chapter 11 Cases and Means for Implementation

The Plan and RSA provides for restructuring of the Debtors' assets and liabilities through a series of coordinated transactions, including:

- Plan Consideration from the Plan Sponsor, which shall be used by the Disbursing Agent to fund all Plan obligations net of the Senior DIP Lender;
- The Debtors' Cash-on-Hand, which shall also be transferred to the Disbursing Agent to fund the Disbursing Agent Restricted Accounts;
- issuance of 1,000 shares of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock to the Plan Sponsor in consideration for the Plan Consideration;
- Contribution of the Guidepost Global Assets and Guidepost Global IP License by Guidepost Global to the Debtors for the benefit of the Plan Sponsor;
- transfer and assignment of certain Executory Contracts / Unexpired Leases to the Guidepost Global;
- transfer of the Designated EB-5 Entities by the Debtors to Guidepost Global;
- mutual release of all claims and causes of action by and among each of the RSA Supporting Parties;
- the reorganization of the Debtors by retiring, cancelling, extinguishing and/or discharging the Debtors' prepetition equity interests and issuing new equity interests in the reorganized debtor(s) to 2HR; and
- certain concessions by RSA Parties regarding their distributions of the Allowed Secured Claims in order to yield recoveries for the Debtors' unsecured creditors.

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To be (a) filed by the Debtors on or before the deadline by which the Debtors must file the Plan Supplement and (b) made available at the website maintained by the Claims and Noticing Agent at www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround (free of charge).

These transactions enable the Debtors to maximize value for all stakeholders, continue the employment of current and former employees at the Schools, and ensure that the students and families can continue to utilize and rely on the Schools that are contemplated to remain open.

3. Financial Projections and Sources of Plan Funding

The feasibility of the Plan is supported by multiple reliable sources of funding, both immediate and long-term, including:

- **Plan Consideration by Plan Sponsor**: The Plan Sponsor will wire the Plan Consideration, which is a condition to effectiveness of the Plan, on the Effective Date.
- Cash-on-Hand: The Debtors shall wire all Property constituting Cash-on-Hand to the Disbursing Agent to fund the Disbursing Agent Restricted Accounts on the Effective Date.
- **Secured Debt Reduction**: Pursuant to the Plan, Holders of Bridge CN-3 Secured Lender Claims shall receive a Cash distribution in the aggregate amount of \$500,000 in full and final satisfaction, release, settlement, and discharge of their Allowed Claim in the amount of at least \$4,800,000.
- Junior Class Distribution Formula: In addition, the WTI Secured Lender Claim of an allowed amount of \$4,680,970.83 shall either (a) be paid, and fully satisfied, by 100% of the Cash remaining after distributions to priority claims, or (b) the Holders of WTI Secured Lender Claims agree that, following distributions to Allowed Class 5 Claims, their distributions shall instead be distributed for the benefit of the Holders of Allowed Class 3 and/or Class 6 Claims pursuant to the Junior Class Distribution Formula. Holders of CN Note Claims shall receive their pro rata share of the CN Note Recovery pursuant to the Junior Class Distribution Formula.
- Retention of Remaining Assets: Reorganized HE Assets shall vest or revisit in Reorganized HGE. Reorganized HGE may operate its business and may use, acquire, or dispose of any and all of its Estate Property, except as otherwise provided in the Plan.

These diversified funding sources and mechanisms reduce risk and enhance the probability of full performance under the Plan.

4. Reasonable Likelihood of Plan Performance

The Plan's financial and structural underpinnings reflect a high degree of confidence in the Debtors' ability to perform their obligations. For instance, the Plan contemplates various settlement of secured claims in order to provide for a distribution for Allowed General Unsecured Claims—something not many secured creditors are willing to concede. Additionally, the Plan contemplates an infusion of the Plan Consideration by the Plan Sponsor to fund distributions of Allowed Claims.

5. No Likelihood of Liquidation or Further Reorganization

Based on the foregoing, confirmation of the Plan is not likely to be followed by liquidation or further financial restructuring. The Plan resolves all critical and substantial amounts of outstanding secured liabilities as well as unsecured, preserves the Debtors' going-concern value, and provides the

organizational and financial tools required for post-emergence success. Additionally, the robust restructuring support from the Plan Sponsor, reduces the likelihood of future distress.

6. **Conclusion**

The Plan is feasible within the meaning of section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code. It provides for full recoveries to all creditors, implements an efficient restructuring of secured and unsecured obligations, and allows the Debtors to emerge from chapter 11 as financially sound, operationally viable, and well-positioned for sustainable growth. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that the Plan satisfies the feasibility requirement of the Bankruptcy Code.

G. Acceptance by Impaired Classes

The Bankruptcy Code requires that, except as described in the following section, each impaired class of claims or interests must accept a plan in order for it to be confirmed. A class that is not "impaired" under a plan is deemed to have accepted the plan and, therefore, solicitation of acceptances with respect to the class is not required. A class is "impaired" unless the plan: (a) leaves unaltered the legal, equitable, and contractual rights to which the claim or the interest entitles the holder of the claim or interest; (b) cures any default, reinstates the original terms of such obligation, compensates the holder for certain damages or losses, as applicable, and does not otherwise alter the legal, equitable, or contractual rights to which such claim or interest entitles the holder of such claim or interest; or (c) provides that, on the consummation date, the holder of such claim receives cash equal to the allowed amount of that claim or, with respect to any equity interest, the holder of such interest receives value equal to the greater of (i) any fixed liquidation preference to which the holder of such equity interest is entitled, (ii) the fixed redemption price to which such holder is entitled, or (iii) the value of the interest.

Section 1126(c) of the Bankruptcy Code defines acceptance of a plan by a class of impaired claims as acceptance by holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in dollar amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of allowed claims in that class, counting only those claims that actually voted to accept or to reject the plan. Thus, a class of claims will have voted to accept the plan only if two-thirds in amount and a majority in number of creditors actually voting cast their ballots in favor of acceptance. For a class of impaired interests to accept a plan, section 1126(d) of the Bankruptcy Code requires acceptance by interest holders that hold at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount of the allowed interests of such class, counting only those interests that actually voted to accept or reject the plan. Thus, a class of interests will have voted to accept the plan only if two-thirds in amount actually voting cast their ballots in favor of acceptance.

H. Confirmation Without Acceptance by All Impaired Classes

Section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code allows a bankruptcy court to confirm a plan even if all impaired classes have not accepted the plan; <u>provided</u> that the plan has been accepted by at least one impaired class of claims. Pursuant to section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, notwithstanding an impaired class rejection or deemed rejection of the plan, the plan will be confirmed, at the plan proponent's request, in a procedure commonly known as "cramdown," so long as the plan does not "discriminately unfairly" and is "fair and equitable" with respect to each class of claims or interests that is impaired under, and has not accepted, the plan.

If any Impaired Class of Claims or Interests rejects the Plan, including Classes of Claims or Interests deemed to reject the Plan, the Debtors will request Confirmation of the Plan, as it may be modified from time to time, under the "cramdown" provision under section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors reserve the right to modify the Plan in accordance with <u>Article 13</u> of the Plan to the extent, if any, that Confirmation pursuant to section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code requires modification, including

by modifying the treatment applicable to a Class of Claims to render such Class of Claims Unimpaired to the extent permitted by the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules or to withdraw the Plan as to such Debtor.

The Debtors believe that the Plan and the treatment of all Classes of Claims and Interests under the Plan satisfy the requirements for cramdown and the Debtors will be prepared to meet their burden to establish that the Plan can be confirmed pursuant to section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code as part of Confirmation of the Plan.

1. **No Unfair Discrimination**

The "unfair discrimination" test applies with respect to classes of claim or interests that are of equal priority but are receiving different treatment under a proposed plan. The test does not require that the treatment be the same or equivalent, but that the treatment be "fair." In general, bankruptcy courts consider whether a plan discriminates unfairly in its treatment of classes of claims of equal rank (e.g., classes of the same legal character). Bankruptcy courts will take into account a number of factors in determining whether a plan discriminates unfairly. Under certain circumstances, a proposed plan may treat two classes of unsecured creditors differently without unfairly discriminating against either class.

With respect to the unfair discrimination requirement, all Classes under the Plan are provided treatment that is substantially equivalent to the treatment that is provided to other Classes that have equal rank. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that the Plan meets the standard to demonstrate that the Plan does not discriminate unfairly, and the Debtors will be prepared to meet their burden to establish that there is no unfair discrimination as part of Confirmation of the Plan.

2. Fair and Equitable Test

The "fair and equitable" test applies to classes of different priority and status (e.g., secured versus unsecured) and includes the general requirement that no class of claims receive more than 100% of the amount of the allowed claims in such class. As to each non-accepting class and as set forth below, the test sets different standards depending on the type of claims or interests in such class. The Debtors believe that the Plan satisfies the "fair and equitable" requirement via the various mechanisms for full recoveries for all creditors provided for via the Plan. There is no Class receiving more than a 100% recovery, and all senior Classes are receiving a full recovery or agree to receive a different treatment under the Plan, thereby entitling junior Classes to receive full recovery under the Plan.

(a) Secured Claims

The condition that a plan be "fair and equitable" to a non-accepting class of secured claims includes the requirements that: (A) the holders of such secured claims retain the liens securing such claims to the extent of the allowed amount of the claims, whether the property subject to the liens is retained by the debtor or transferred to another entity under the plan; (B) each holder of a secured claim in the class receives deferred cash payments totaling at least the allowed amount of such claim with a value, as of the effective date, at least equivalent to the value of the secured claimant's interest in the debtor's property subject to the claimant's liens; and/or (C) the holders of such secured claims receive the realization of the indubitable equivalent of such secured claims under the plan.

(b) Unsecured Claims

The condition that a plan be "fair and equitable" to a non-accepting class of unsecured claims includes the requirement that either: (A) the plan provides that each holder of a claim of such class receive or retain on

account of such claim property of a value, as of the effective date, equal to the allowed amount of such claim; or (B) the holder of any claim or any interest that is junior to the claims of such class will not receive or retain any property under the plan on account of such junior claim or junior interest, subject to certain exceptions.

(c) Interests

The condition that a plan be "fair and equitable" to a non-accepting class of interests, includes the requirements that either: (A) the plan provides that each holder of an interest in that class receives or retains under the plan on account of that interest property of a value, as of the effective date, equal to the greater of: (1) the allowed amount of any fixed liquidation preference to which such holder is entitled; (2) any fixed redemption price to which such holder is entitled; or (3) the value of such interest; or (B) the holder of any interest that is junior to the interests of such class will not receive or retain any property under the plan on account of such junior interest.

ARTICLE X. Risk Factors

BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE PLAN, HOLDERS OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE DEBTORS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN SHOULD READ AND CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE RISK FACTORS SET FORTH BELOW, AS WELL AS THE OTHER INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, THE PLAN, AND THE DOCUMENTS DELIVERED TOGETHER HEREWITH, REFERRED TO, OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, INCLUDING OTHER DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE BANKRUPTCY COURT IN THE CHAPTER 11 CASES. THE RISK FACTORS SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS CONSTITUTING THE ONLY RISKS PRESENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTORS' BUSINESSES OR THE RESTRUCTURING AND CONSUMMATION OF THE PLAN. EACH OF THE RISK FACTORS DISCUSSED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT MAY APPLY EQUALLY TO THE DEBTORS AND THE REORGANIZED DEBTORS, AS APPLICABLE AND AS CONTEXT REQUIRES.

A. Bankruptcy Law Considerations

While the Debtors believe that these Chapter 11 Cases have been efficient and not materially harmful to the value of their assets, the Debtors cannot be certain that this will be the case. Further, it is impossible to predict with certainty the amount of time that one or more of the Debtors may spend in bankruptcy or to assure the parties in interest that the Plan will be confirmed. Even if confirmed on a timely basis, bankruptcy proceedings to confirm the Plan could have an adverse effect on the Debtors' business, the Debtors' relationships with their employees, or on the amount of distributable value available to the Holders of Claims or Interests.

The occurrence or non-occurrence of any or all of the following contingencies, and any others, could affect distributions available to Holders of Allowed Claims under the Plan but will not necessarily affect the validity of the vote of the Impaired Classes to accept or reject the Plan or necessarily require a resolicitation of the votes of Holders of Claims in such Impaired Classes.

1. Parties in Interest May Object to the Plan's Classification of Claims and Interests

Section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a plan may place a claim or an equity interest in a particular class only if such claim or equity interest is substantially similar to the other claims or equity

interests in such class. The Debtors believe that the classification of the Claims and Interests under the Plan complies with the requirements set forth in the Bankruptcy Code because the Debtors created Classes of Claims and Interests each encompassing Claims or Interests, as applicable, that are substantially similar to the other Claims or Interests, as applicable, in each such Class. Nevertheless, there can be no assurance that the Bankruptcy Court will reach the same conclusion.

Although the Debtors believe that the classification of Claims and Interests under the Plan complies with the requirements set forth in the Bankruptcy Code, a Holder could challenge the classification. In such event, the cost of the Plan and the time needed to confirm the Plan may increase, and the Debtors cannot be sure that the Bankruptcy Court will agree with the Debtors' classification of Claims and Interests. If the Bankruptcy Court concludes that either or both of the classifications of Claims and Interests under the Plan do not comply with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors may need to modify the Plan. Such modification could require a re-solicitation of votes on the Plan. The Plan may not be confirmed if the Bankruptcy Court determines that the Debtors' classification of Claims and Interests is not appropriate.

2. The Conditions Precedent to the Effective Date of the Plan May Not Occur

As more fully set forth in <u>Article 11</u> of the Plan, the Effective Date of the Plan is subject to a number of conditions precedent. If such conditions precedent are not met or waived, the Effective Date will not take place.

3. The Debtors May Not Be Able to Satisfy Vote Requirements

If votes are received in number and amount sufficient to enable the Bankruptcy Court to confirm the Plan, the Debtors intend to seek, as promptly as practicable thereafter, Confirmation of the Plan. In the event that sufficient votes are not received, the Debtors may seek to confirm an alternative chapter 11 plan or transaction. There can be no assurance that the terms of any such alternative chapter 11 plan or other transaction would be similar or as favorable to the Holders of Allowed Claims as those proposed in the Plan and the Debtors do not believe that any such transaction exists or is likely to exist that would be more beneficial to the Estates than the Plan.

4. The Debtors May Not Be Able to Secure Confirmation of the Plan

Section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code sets forth the requirements for confirmation of a chapter 11 plan, and requires, among other things, a finding by the bankruptcy court that: (i) the plan "does not unfairly discriminate" and is "fair and equitable" with respect to any non-accepting Classes; (ii) the plan is not likely to be followed by a liquidation or a need for further financial reorganization unless liquidation or reorganization is contemplated by the plan; and (iii) the value of distributions to non-accepting Holders of Claims and Interests within a particular Class under the plan will not be less than the value of distributions such Holders would receive if the debtor were liquidated under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

There can be no assurance that the requisite acceptances to confirm the Plan will be received. Even if the requisite acceptances are received, there can be no assurance that the Bankruptcy Court will confirm the Plan. A dissenting Holder of an Allowed Claim might challenge either the adequacy of this Disclosure Statement or whether the voting results satisfy the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules. Even if the Bankruptcy Court determines that this Disclosure Statement and the voting results are appropriate, the Bankruptcy Court can decline to confirm the Plan if it finds that any of the statutory requirements for Confirmation have not been met, including the requirement that the terms of the Plan do not "unfairly discriminate" and are "fair and equitable" to non-accepting Classes.

If the Plan is not confirmed, it is unclear what distributions, if any, Holders of Allowed Claims and Interests will receive with respect to their Allowed Claims and Interests, as applicable. Subject to the limitations contained in the Plan, the Debtors reserve the right to modify the Plan and seek Confirmation consistent with the Bankruptcy Code and, as appropriate, resolicit votes on such modified Plan. Any modifications could result in a less favorable treatment of any Class than the treatment currently provided in the Plan, such as a distribution of property to the Class affected by the modification of a lesser value than currently provided in the Plan.

5. Parties in Interest May Object to the Releases Contained in the Plan

Confirmation is also subject to the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the settlement, release, injunction, and related provisions described in <u>Article 10</u> of the Plan. Certain parties in interest may assert that the Debtors cannot demonstrate that they meet the relevant standards for approval of releases, exculpations, and injunctions.

6. The Debtors May Object to the Amount or Classification of a Claim or Interest

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, the Debtors reserve the right to object to the amount or classification of any Claim or Interest under the Plan. The estimates set forth in this Disclosure Statement cannot be relied upon by any Holder of a Claim or Interest where such Claim or Interest is subject to an objection or dispute. Any Holder of a Claim or Interest that is subject to an objection or dispute may not receive its expected share of the estimated distributions described in this Disclosure Statement.

7. The Debtors May Not Be Able to Pursue Nonconsensual Confirmation Over Certain Impaired Non-Accepting Classes

Generally, a bankruptcy court may confirm a plan under the Bankruptcy Code's "cramdown" provisions over the objection of an impaired non-accepting class of claims or interests if at least one impaired class of claims has accepted the plan (with acceptance being determined without including the vote of any "insider" in that accepting class), and, as to each impaired class that has not accepted the plan, the bankruptcy court determines that the plan "does not discriminate unfairly" and is "fair and equitable" with respect to the rejecting impaired classes.

While the Debtors believe they may secure Plan support from the Holders of Claims well in excess of the requisite two-thirds in amount and more than one-half in number (the amount required for an accepting Class of Claims pursuant to section 1126(c) of the Bankruptcy Code) there is no guarantee that those Holders will vote those Claims favor of the Plan. There can be no assurances that the Debtors will confirm a chapter 11 plan and emerge as a reorganized company in that event, and it is unclear what distributions, if any, Holders of Allowed Claims and Interests will receive with respect to their Allowed Claims and Interests in that instance. In addition, the pursuit of an alternative restructuring proposal may result in, among other things, increased expenses relating to claims of estate professionals.

Finally, to the extent that a Voting Class votes to reject the Plan, the Debtors may not be able to seek to "cramdown" such Voting Class under section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code because there is no other impaired Class of Claims entitled to vote under the Plan.

8. The Chapter 11 Cases May Be Converted to Cases under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code

If the Bankruptcy Court finds that it would be in the best interest of creditors and/or the debtor in a chapter 11 case, the Bankruptcy Court may convert a chapter 11 bankruptcy case to a case under chapter

7 of the Bankruptcy Code. In such event, a chapter 7 trustee would be appointed or elected to liquidate the debtor's assets for distribution in accordance with the priorities established by the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors believe that liquidation under chapter 7 would result in significantly diminished distributions being made to creditors than those provided for in a chapter 11 plan because of (a) the likelihood that the assets would have to be sold or otherwise disposed of in a disorderly fashion over a short period of time, rather than reorganizing or selling the business as a going concern at a later time in a controlled manner, (b) additional administrative expenses involved in the appointment of a chapter 7 trustee, and (c) additional expenses and Claims, some of which would be entitled to priority, that would be generated during the liquidation, including Claims resulting from the rejection of Unexpired Leases and other Executory Contracts in connection with cessation of operations. For a more detailed description of the consequences of an extended chapter 11 case, or of a liquidation scenario, see Article IX.E of this Disclosure Statement, titled "Best Interests of Creditors/Liquidation Analysis" and the Liquidation Analysis attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

9. Any of the Chapter 11 Cases May Be Dismissed

If the Bankruptcy Court finds that the Debtors have incurred substantial or continuing loss or diminution to the estate and lack of a reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation of the Debtors or the ability to effectuate substantial Consummation of a confirmed plan, or otherwise determines that cause exists, the Bankruptcy Court may dismiss one or all of the Chapter 11 Cases. In such event, the Debtors would be unable to confirm the Plan with respect to the applicable Debtor or Debtors, which may ultimately result in significantly smaller distributions to creditors than those provided for in the Plan.

B. Continued Risk Upon Confirmation and Recoveries Under the Plan

Even if the Plan is consummated, the Debtors will continue to face a number of risks, including certain risks that are beyond their control, such as deterioration or other changes in economic conditions, changes in the industry, changes in interest rates, potential revaluing of their assets due to chapter 11 proceedings, changes in demand for the products and services the Debtors provide, and increasing expenses.

At the outset of the Chapter 11 Cases, the Bankruptcy Code provides the Debtors with the exclusive right to propose the Plan and prohibits creditors and others from proposing a plan. The Debtors will have retained the exclusive right to propose the Plan upon filing their Petitions. If the Bankruptcy Court terminates that right, however, or the exclusivity period expires, there could be a material adverse effect on the Debtors' ability to achieve Confirmation of the Plan to achieve the Debtors' stated goals. Furthermore, even if the Debtors' debts are reduced and/or discharged through the Plan, the Debtors may need to raise additional funds through public or private debt or equity financing or other various means to fund the Debtors' business after the completion of the proceedings related to the Chapter 11 Cases. Adequate funds may not be available when needed or may not be available on favorable terms.

1. Dependence on Plan Contribution from Plan Sponsor

The Debtors' ability to make payments under the Plan may be affected by a number of factors, including receiving the Plan Contribution from the Plan Sponsor in the form of significant future payment. Although the Plan Sponsor is contractually obligated to provide the Plan Consideration, the Plan Sponsor is not a debtor in these Chapter 11 Cases and is under no court order to make such contribution. Indeed, a change in circumstances—such as deteriorating financial performance abroad or operational strain—could cause the Plan Sponsor to withdraw or reduce support. Any such action would materially impair the Debtors' ability to fund distributions to creditors or operate effectively post-emergence

2. Contingencies Could Affect Distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims

The distributions available to Holders of Allowed Claims under the Plan can be affected by a variety of contingencies, including, without limitation, whether the Bankruptcy Court orders certain Allowed Claims to be subordinated to other Allowed Claims. The occurrence of any and all such contingencies, which could affect distributions available to Holders of Allowed Claims under the Plan, will not affect the validity of the vote taken by the Impaired Classes to accept or reject the Plan or require any sort of revote by the Impaired Classes.

The estimated Claims and creditor recoveries set forth in this Disclosure Statement are based on various assumptions, and the actual Allowed amounts of Claims may significantly differ from the estimates. Should one or more of the underlying assumptions ultimately prove to be incorrect, the actual Allowed amounts of Claims may vary from the estimated Claims contained in this Disclosure Statement.

3. Risk of Non-Occurrence of the Effective Date

The Effective Date of the Plan is conditioned upon several requirements, including the entry of the Confirmation Order and satisfaction of conditions relating to the Plan Sponsor's obligations and execution of Definitive Documents. If these conditions are not met or waived, the Plan may not become effective, resulting in protracted bankruptcy proceedings or conversion of the Chapter 11 Cases to chapter 7. Although the Debtors believe that the Effective Date may occur quickly after the Confirmation Date, there can be no assurance as to such timing or as to whether the Effective Date will, in fact, occur. As more fully set forth in Article 11 of the Plan, the Effective Date of the Plan is subject to a number of conditions precedent. If such conditions precedent are not met, the Effective Date will not take place.

4. The Debtors' Historical Financial Information May Not Be Comparable to the Financial Information of the Reorganized Debtors

As a result of Consummation and the transactions contemplated thereby, the financial condition and results of operations of the Reorganized Debtors from and after the Effective Date may not be comparable to the financial condition or results of operations reflected in the Debtors' historical financial statements.

5. Operating in Bankruptcy for a Long Period of Time May Harm the Debtors' Business

The Debtors' future results will be dependent upon the successful confirmation and implementation of a plan of reorganization. A long period of operations under Bankruptcy Court protection could have a material adverse effect on the Debtors' business, financial condition, results of operations, and liquidity. So long as the proceedings related to the Chapter 11 Cases continue, senior management will be required to spend a significant amount of time and effort dealing with the reorganization instead of focusing exclusively on business operations. A prolonged period of operating under Bankruptcy Court protection also may make it more difficult to retain management and other key personnel necessary to the success and growth of the Debtors' business. Further, so long as the proceedings related to the Chapter 11 Cases continue, the Debtors will be required to incur substantial costs for professional fees and other expenses associated with the administration of the Chapter 11 Cases. Furthermore, the Debtors cannot predict the ultimate amount of all settlement terms for the liabilities that will be subject to a plan of reorganization. Even after a plan of reorganization is approved and implemented, the Reorganized Debtors' operating results may be adversely affected by the possible reluctance of prospective lenders and other counterparties to do business with a company that recently emerged from bankruptcy protection.

6. The Debtors May Not Be Able to Achieve Their Projected Financial Projections or Meet Their Post-Restructuring Debt Obligations

The Financial Projections represent management's best estimate of the future financial performance of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, based on currently known facts and assumptions about future operations of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable. The projections have not been compiled, audited, or examined by independent accountants, and neither the Debtors nor their advisors make any representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of the projections or the ability to achieve forecasted results.

While the Debtors feel confident in their Financial Projections, there is no guarantee that the Financial Projections will be realized, and actual financial results may differ significantly from the Financial Projections. Indeed, many of the assumptions underlying the projections are subject to significant uncertainties that are beyond the control of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, including the timing, confirmation, and consummation of the Plan, outside litigation and costs, and other unanticipated economic conditions. Some assumptions may not materialize, and unanticipated events and circumstances may affect the actual results. Projections are inherently subject to substantial and numerous uncertainties and to a wide variety of significant business, economic, and competitive risks, and the assumptions underlying the projections may be inaccurate in material respects. In addition, unanticipated events and circumstances occurring after the approval of this Disclosure Statement by the Bankruptcy Court including any natural disasters, terrorist attacks, or public health pandemics may affect the actual financial results achieved. Such results may vary significantly from the forecasts and such variations may be material.

The Debtors' projections reflect the projected impact of value-creating programs. However, the Debtors cannot state with certainty that such value-creating programs will achieve their targeted results.

7. Certain Tax Implications of the Debtors' Bankruptcy and Reorganization

Holders of Allowed Claims should carefully review <u>Article XII</u> of this Disclosure Statement to determine how the tax implications of the Plan and the Chapter 11 Cases may adversely affect the Debtors.

C. Risk Factors Related to the Business Operations of the Debtors and Reorganized Debtors

1. The Debtors Are Subject to the Risks and Uncertainties Associated with Any Chapter 11 Restructuring

For the duration of these Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors' operations and the Debtors' ability to execute their business strategy will be subject to the risks and uncertainties associated with bankruptcy. These risks include, among other things:

- the Debtors' ability to obtain approval of the Bankruptcy Court with respect to pleadings and motion papers filed in the Chapter 11 Cases from time to time;
- the Debtors' ability to obtain creditor and Bankruptcy Court approval for, and then to Consummate, the Plan to emerge from bankruptcy;
- the Debtors' ability to obtain and maintain normal trade terms with service providers and maintain contracts that are critical to their operations;
- the Debtors' ability to motivate and retain key employees;

- the Debtors' ability to attract and retain students and families; and
- the Debtors' ability to fund and execute their business plan.

The Debtors are also subject to risks and uncertainties with respect to the actions and decisions of creditors and other third parties who have interests in the Chapter 11 Cases that may be inconsistent with the Plan.

These risks and uncertainties could affect the Debtors' businesses and operations in various ways. For example, negative events or publicity associated with the Chapter 11 Cases could adversely affect the Debtors' relationships with their customers, as well as their suppliers and employees, which, in turn, could adversely affect the Debtors' operations and financial condition. Also, pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors need Bankruptcy Court approval for transactions outside the ordinary course of business, which may limit their ability to respond timely to certain events or take advantage of certain opportunities. Because of the risks and uncertainties associated with the Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors cannot predict or quantify the ultimate effect that events occurring during the Chapter 11 Cases will have on their businesses, financial condition, and results of operations.

As a result of the Chapter 11 Cases, the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities are subject to uncertainty. While operating as debtors in possession, and subject to approval of the Bankruptcy Court, or otherwise as permitted in the normal course of business or Bankruptcy Court order, the Debtors may sell or otherwise dispose of assets and liquidate or settle liabilities. Further, the Plan could materially change the amounts and classifications of assets and liabilities reported in the historical consolidated financial statements. The historical consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments to the reported amounts of assets or liabilities that might be necessary as a result of Confirmation.

2. Right-Sizing Real Estate Portfolio

The Debtors' efforts to close, divest or transfer certain leases during the Chapter 11 Cases to the Foreclosure Buyers or other operators is part of the Debtors' wider effort to cut costs and maintain profitability. The Debtors forward-looking financial projections are based on the divestment and closure of certain School locations. The actual lease savings realized by the Company may be substantially less than the Debtors anticipate.

3. Student Enrollment in Asset Valuation

The Debtor currently operates seven (7) Schools. The success of the Reorganized Debtors hinges largely operation of these Schools, including maintaining and/or growing Student enrollment. If the Debtors are unable to at least maintain Student enrollment the Debtors' future revenue and overall performance, as well as its brand image, may be adversely affected.

4. Pending and Future Litigation Matters

In the ordinary course of business, the Debtors are parties to certain lawsuits, legal proceedings, collection proceedings, and claims arising out of their business operations. The Debtors cannot predict with certainty the outcome of these lawsuits, legal proceedings, and claims. Particularly, with respect to the pending litigation involving various litigation counterparties, while the Debtors believe that these claims are meritless, the Debtors cannot predict such success with absolute certainty.

With certain exceptions, the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases operates as a stay with respect to the commencement or continuation of litigation against the Debtors that was or could have been commenced

before the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases. In addition, the Debtors' liability with respect to litigation stayed by the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases generally is subject to discharge, settlement, and release upon confirmation of a plan under chapter 11, with certain exceptions. Therefore, certain litigation Claims against the Debtors may be subject to discharge in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases. Specific litigation includes or may include (a) workers' compensation cases involving current and former employees, (b) landlord-tenant disputes, (c) wrongful termination employee actions, (d) regulatory matters, and (e) other litigation matters that have since been closed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, there also may be in the future certain litigation that could result in a material judgment against the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors. Such litigation, and any judgment in connection therewith, could have a material negative effect on the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtor, as applicable.

D. Miscellaneous Risk Factors and Disclaimers

1. The Financial Information Is Based on the Debtors' Books and Records and, Unless Otherwise Stated, No Audit Was Performed

In preparing this Disclosure Statement, the Debtors relied on financial data derived from their books and records that were available at the time of such preparation. Although the Debtors have used their reasonable business judgment to assure the accuracy of the financial information provided in this Disclosure Statement, and while the Debtors believe that such financial information fairly reflects their financial condition, the Debtors are unable to warrant or represent that the financial information contained in this Disclosure Statement (or any information in any of the exhibits to the Disclosure Statement) is without inaccuracies.

2. No Legal or Tax Advice Is Provided by This Disclosure Statement

This Disclosure Statement is not legal advice to any person or Entity. The contents of this Disclosure Statement should not be construed as legal, business, or tax advice. Each reader should consult its own legal counsel and accountant with regard to any legal, tax, and other matters concerning its Claim. This Disclosure Statement may not be relied upon for any purpose other than to determine how to vote to accept or reject the Plan or whether to object to Confirmation.

3. No Admissions Made

The information and statements contained in this Disclosure Statement will neither (a) constitute an admission of any fact or liability by any Entity (including the Debtors) nor (b) be deemed evidence of the tax or other legal effects of the Plan on the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, Holders of Allowed Claims or Interests, or any other parties in interest.

4. Failure to Identify Litigation Claims or Projected Objections

No reliance should be placed on the fact that a particular litigation claim or projected objection to a particular Claim is, or is not, identified in this Disclosure Statement. The Debtors may seek to investigate, file, and prosecute Claims and may object to Claims after Confirmation and Consummation of the Plan, irrespective of whether this Disclosure Statement identifies such Claims or objections to Claims.

5. Information Was Provided by the Debtors and Was Relied Upon by the Debtors' Advisors

Counsel to and other advisors retained by the Debtors have relied upon information provided by the Debtors in connection with the preparation of this Disclosure Statement. Although counsel to and other advisors retained by the Debtors have performed certain limited due diligence in connection with the preparation of this Disclosure Statement and the exhibits to the Disclosure Statement, they have not independently verified the information contained in this Disclosure Statement or the information in the exhibits to the Disclosure Statement.

6. No Representations Outside This Disclosure Statement Are Authorized

No representations concerning or relating to the Debtors, the Chapter 11 Cases, or the Plan are authorized by the Bankruptcy Court or the Bankruptcy Code, other than as set forth in this Disclosure Statement. Any representations or inducements made to secure voting Holders' acceptance or rejection of the Plan that are other than as contained in, or included with, this Disclosure Statement, should not be relied upon by voting Holders in arriving at their decision.

Voting Holders should promptly report unauthorized representations or inducements to counsel to the Debtors and the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Texas.

7. **No Duty to Update**

The statements contained in this Disclosure Statement are made by the Debtors as of the date hereof, unless otherwise specified herein, and the delivery of this Disclosure Statement after that date does not imply that there has been no change in the information set forth herein since that date. The Debtors have no duty to update this Disclosure Statement unless otherwise ordered to do so by the Bankruptcy Court.

ARTICLE XI. Certain Securities Law Matters

A. Introduction

The Debtors' Plan proposes a series of transactions and distributions that may involve the issuance, transfer, or retention of securities within the meaning of applicable United States federal and state securities laws. This section provides a comprehensive discussion of those implications, including the applicability of registration exemptions, the potential issuance or reinstatement of securities, resale limitations, the treatment of insider and affiliate transactions, and related compliance issues. This disclosure is intended to Holders of Claims and Interests and other parties in interest in understanding the legal framework under which any such securities transactions may be affected in connection with Confirmation and Consummation of the Plan.

Importantly, no securities are being offered or sold through this Disclosure Statement, and this Disclosure Statement does not constitute an offer or solicitation with respect to any securities. Any securities potentially issued under the Plan will be issued in reliance on one or more exemptions from registration under applicable federal and state securities laws.

B. Applicability of Section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code

Section 1145(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides a statutory exemption from the registration requirements of Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and from

state "blue sky" laws, for the offer or sale of certain securities under a confirmed chapter 11 plan. Specifically, Section 1145 provides that the offer or sale of securities is exempt from registration if:

- The securities are issued under a chapter 11 plan;
- The securities are issued by the debtor, a successor to the debtor, or an affiliate of the debtor that is participating in the plan of reorganization with the debtor; and
- The securities are issued in exchange for a claim against, an interest in, or an administrative expense claim against the debtor.

This exemption covers the issuance of stock, bonds, and other instruments that are "securities" within the meaning of Section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act, including common and preferred equity, debt instruments, and certain derivative instruments.

If any securities are distributed to creditors or equity holders under the Plan in exchange for allowed claims or interests, the Debtors believe that such issuances will satisfy the requirements of Section 1145. Moreover, any retention or deemed issuance of equity interests held by the Plan Sponsor would not constitute a public offering under the Securities Act, and would not require registration.

C. Possible Issuances of Securities Under the Plan

Although the Plan does not mandate the issuance of publicly tradable securities, it does contemplate several transactions that may, directly or indirectly, result in the issuance or retention of securities. These include:

1. Issuance of Reorganized HGE Common Stock

On the Effective Date, 1,000 shares of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock, representing 100% of the equity of the Reorganized HGE, shall be issued to the Plan Sponsor or an entity designated by the Plan Sponsor, in consideration for the Plan Consideration and, to the Senior DIP Lender, to the extent that it exercises the Subscription Option. Reorganized HGE may take all necessary actions, if applicable, after the Effective Date to suspend any requirement to (a) be a reporting company under the Securities Exchange Act, and (b) file reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission or any other entity or party.

2. Reinstated Intercompany Obligations

The Plan provides for flexible treatment of Claims held by the Debtors' affiliates, including reinstatement, setoff, conversion to equity, settlement, or cancellation. If any portion of these Claims is converted to equity in either Debtor, such equity may constitute a "security." However, given the exclusively affiliated nature of these parties, any such issuance would qualify for exemption under Section 4(a)(2), Regulation D, or Regulation S, as applicable.

D. Applicability of Section 4(a)(2) and Regulation D

Where the Section 1145 exemption does not apply—such as issuances of the Reorganized HGE Common Stock—the Debtors will rely on the "private offering" exemption set forth in Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act. This exemption is available for transactions that do not involve any public offering. Courts and the SEC consider several factors in determining whether a transaction qualifies, including:

- The sophistication of the offeree(s);
- Access to material information;
- Number of offerees;
- Absence of general solicitation.

Issuances to the Plan Sponsor, as a sophisticated entity with comprehensive access to information, clearly fall within this exemption. In addition, the Debtors may utilize Regulation D, including Rule 506(b), to ensure compliance with federal and state securities laws for any other applicable transactions.

E. Use of Regulation S for Non-U.S. Persons

The Plan Sponsor and other affiliates of the Debtors are non-U.S. persons under Regulation S of the Securities Act. To the extent any securities are issued outside the United States to such entities, the Debtors believe that Regulation S will provide a separate exemption from registration, provided that:

- The offer and sale occur outside the United States:
- No directed selling efforts are made in the U.S.; and
- The purchaser is a non-U.S. person.

Issuances that comply with Regulation S are not subject to U.S. registration requirements, and resales are subject to minimal restrictions if sold offshore after the required holding period.

F. Restrictions on Resale of Securities

To the extent applicable, securities issued under the Plan pursuant to Section 1145 may be resold by recipients without registration, unless the holder is an "underwriter" as defined in Section 1145(b)(1), which includes:

- Persons who acquire securities with a view to distribution;
- Affiliates of the issuer;
- Persons who resell securities on behalf of the debtor or an affiliate.

Affiliates, including the Plan Sponsor and any of its designated entities or officers of the Reorganized Debtors, may be considered underwriters and thus may not resell such securities absent an effective registration statement or another applicable exemption.

Securities issued under Section 4(a)(2), Regulation D, or Regulation S will be deemed "restricted securities" and will be subject to resale limitations under Rule 144 unless held by non-affiliates who meet the applicable holding period and other requirements.

G. State Securities ("Blue Sky") Laws

To the extent securities are issued pursuant to Section 1145, state securities law registration requirements are preempted. For securities issued under other exemptions, such as Section 4(a)(2), Regulation D, or

Regulation S, compliance with applicable state blue sky laws may be required unless preempted under the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 ("NSMIA"). Where required, the Debtors will ensure that such securities are exempt from registration under the applicable state law through reliance on Rule 506 or other available exemptions.

H. No Public Market for Debtors' Securities

There is currently no public market for any securities of the Debtors, and the Debtors do not anticipate that a public market will develop post-confirmation. The Debtors do not intend to register any securities issued under the Plan with the SEC or list them on any securities exchange. As a result, any securities distributed under the Plan are likely to be illiquid and may be subject to restrictions on transfer.

I. No Reporting Obligations Under the Exchange Act

Following confirmation of the Plan, the Debtors do not intend to register any class of securities under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), nor do they intend to become subject to the periodic reporting requirements of Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Accordingly, holders of any securities issued under the Plan should not expect to receive periodic financial statements or reports from the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, unless otherwise required by contract or law.

J. No Offer or Solicitation

This Disclosure Statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code and is not intended to constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. Any such offer or sale, if it occurs, will be made only in compliance with applicable securities laws and pursuant to a valid exemption from registration.

K. Conclusion

The Debtors believe that all securities transactions contemplated under the Plan will be exempt from federal and state registration requirements, either under Section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code, Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act, Regulation D, or Regulation S. The Debtors do not intend to register any securities issued under the Plan, and no public market is expected to exist for such securities. Accordingly, recipients of any such securities should be prepared to hold them indefinitely and should consult their own legal and financial advisors regarding the securities law implications of their receipt and any potential transfer of such securities

ARTICLE XII. Certain U.S. Federal Tax Consequences of the Plan

THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PLAN ARE COMPLEX. THE FOREGOING SUMMARY DOES NOT DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO A PARTICULAR HOLDER IN LIGHT OF SUCH HOLDER'S CIRCUMSTANCES AND INCOME TAX SITUATION. ALL HOLDERS OF CLAIMS AND INTERESTS SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS AS TO THE PARTICULAR TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THE PLAN, INCLUDING THE APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT OF ANY STATE, LOCAL, OR NON-U.S. TAX LAWS, AND OF ANY CHANGE IN APPLICABLE TAX LAWS.

A. U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences to Holders of Claims

The U.S. federal income tax treatment of a Holder of an Allowed Claim that receives a distribution in satisfaction of such Claim will depend upon the nature of the Claim, the tax status of the Holder, the form of the consideration received, and the extent to which the Claim includes accrued but unpaid interest.

In general, a Holder of a Claim will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the "amount realized" by the Holder in satisfaction of the Claim (i.e., the sum of the cash and fair market value of any property received) and (ii) the Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Claim. A Holder's adjusted tax basis in a Claim generally equals the Holder's cost for the Claim, with certain adjustments for payments previously received and other applicable rules. Each applicable Holder should consult with its own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of such distributions, and the applicability of the installment sale rules.

B. Reporting and Withholding Obligations

All distributions under the Plan are subject to applicable tax withholding, including backup withholding under section 3406 of the Tax Code, unless the recipient provides a properly completed IRS Form W-9 (for U.S. persons) or Form W-8 (for non-U.S. persons). Backup withholding generally applies to reportable payments if the recipient fails to provide a taxpayer identification number or underreports interest or dividend income.

Any amounts withheld from a payment to a Holder under the backup withholding rules may be credited against the Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, and a refund may be obtained to the extent such withholding exceeds the actual tax liability of the Holder.

C. Information Reporting

The Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, or their distribution agents may be required to file information returns with the IRS with respect to distributions made pursuant to the Plan. Holders may also be required to furnish certain information to establish an exemption from withholding or to comply with tax reporting obligations.

D. Importance of Tax Advice

THE FOREGOING IS INTENDED TO BE A GENERAL SUMMARY OF CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN. IT IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CAREFUL TAX PLANNING. THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO HOLDERS MAY VARY BASED ON INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND MAY BE AFFECTED BY OTHER FACTORS, INCLUDING WHETHER THE HOLDER HAS TAKEN A BAD DEBT DEDUCTION, THE HOLDER'S METHOD OF ACCOUNTING, OR WHETHER THE HOLDER IS A NON-U.S. PERSON.

HOLDERS OF CLAIMS THAT RECEIVE DISTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE PLAN SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE ALLOCATION OF CONSIDERATION AND THE TAX IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATION.

ARTICLE XIII. Recommendation of the Debtors

In the opinion of the Debtors, the Plan is preferable to the alternatives described in this Disclosure Statement because it provides for a larger distribution to Holders of Allowed Claims and Interests than would otherwise result in a liquidation under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. In addition, any alternative other than Confirmation could result in extensive delays and increased administrative expenses, resulting in smaller distributions to Holders of Allowed Claims than proposed under the Plan. Accordingly, the Debtors recommend that Holders of Claims and Interests entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan support Confirmation and vote to accept the Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

HIGHER GROUND EDUCATION, INC., et al., Debtors and Debtors in Possession

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