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INDEX NO. 656462/2019
RECEIVED NYSCEF: 097/015/2022

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

ERIE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

NN, INC., RICHARD D. HOLDER, THOMAS C. BURWELL, JR., ROBERT E. BRUNNER, WILLIAM DRIES, DAVID K. FLOYD, DAVID L. PUGH, STEVEN T. WARSHAW, J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES LLC, ROBERT W. BAIRD & CO. INCORPORATED, KEYBANC CAPITAL MARKETS INC., SUNTRUST ROBINSON HUMPHREY, INC., LAKE STREET CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC, STEPHENS INC., WILLIAM BLAIR & COMPANY, L.L.C., CJS SECURITIES, INC., and REGIONS SECURITIES LLC,

Defendants.

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(Borrok, J.)

Part 53

Motion Sequence No. 6

ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT
AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE

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WHEREAS, on July 25, 2022, the Parties to the above-captioned action (the "Litigation") entered into a Stipulation of Settlement (the "Stipulation" or "Settlement"), which is subject to review by this Court and which, together with the exhibits thereto, sets forth the terms and conditions for the Settlement and dismissal of the claims alleged in the Litigation; and the Court having read and considered the Stipulation and the accompanying documents; and the Parties to the

Stipulation having consented to the entry of this Notice Order; and all capitalized terms used herein

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, this 1 day of September, 2022, that:

1. The Court preliminarily finds that:

having the meanings defined in the Stipulation, unless otherwise defined;

- (a) the Settlement resulted from informed, extensive arm's-length negotiations, including a mediation among Plaintiff and Defendants under the direction of a very experienced mediator, Gregory P. Lindstrom, Esq.; and
- (b) the Settlement is sufficiently fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant providing notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class.
- 2. For purposes of the Settlement only, and preliminarily, for purposes of this Order, the Litigation shall proceed as a class action, pursuant to CPLR §§901 and 902, on behalf of a Settlement Class consisting of persons and entities who purchased or otherwise acquired NN, Inc.'s common stock in the Company's September 14, 2018 Secondary Public Offering. For purposes of the releases set forth herein, "Settlement Class" and "Settlement Class Members" shall include any Person purporting to assert a claim on behalf of any Settlement Class Member, or any Person

As used herein, the term "Parties" mean Plaintiff Erie County Employees Retirement System ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of itself and the Settlement Class, and Defendants NN, Inc. ("NN" or "the Company"), Richard D. Holder, Thomas C. Burwell, Jr., Robert E. Brunner, William Dries, David K. Floyd, David L. Pugh, Steven T. Warshaw, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc., Truist Securities, Inc., f/k/a Suntrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., Lake Street Capital Markets, LLC, Stephens Inc., William Blair & Company, L.L.C., CJS Securities, Inc., and Regions Securities LLC (collectively, "Defendants").

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asserting a claim based on a purchase or acquisition of NN common stock made by any Settlement

Class Member. Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (a) Defendants; (b) members of the

immediate families of each Individual Defendant; (c) the respective parents and subsidiaries of

NN and the Underwriter Defendants; (d) the officers and directors of NN; (e) any entity in which

any such excluded party has a direct or indirect majority ownership interest; and (f) the legal

representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded party. Notwithstanding any

aforementioned exclusions from the definition of "Settlement Class," Investment Vehicles shall

not be excluded from the Settlement Class. Those persons (if any) who timely and validly request

exclusion from the Settlement Class pursuant to the Notice to be sent shall also be excluded from

the Settlement Class.

3. For purposes of the Settlement only, and preliminarily, for purposes of this Order,

Plaintiff is hereby certified as the Settlement Class Representative and Plaintiff's Counsel is

appointed as Class Counsel.

4. A Settlement Fairness Hearing is hereby scheduled to be held before the Court at

60 Centre Street, Part 53, Courtroom 238, New York, New York 10007, on December 1, 2022, at

 \mathcal{I} :00 ρ .m., for the following purposes:

(a) to determine whether the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and

adequate and should be approved by the Court;

(b) to determine whether the Judgment, as provided under the Stipulation,

should be entered;

(c) to determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation for the distribution of

the Net Settlement Fund should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable,

and adequate;

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to determine whether to grant final certification of a Settlement Class for (d) purposes of the Settlement;

- to consider Plaintiff's Counsel's Fee and Expense Application; (e)
- to consider Plaintiff's request for an award for its efforts in prosecuting the (f) Litigation on behalf of the Settlement Class;
- to consider any objections or opt-outs received by the Court; and (g)
- to rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate. (h)
- 5. The Court reserves the right to approve the Settlement with or without modification and with or without further notice to the Settlement Class and may adjourn the Settlement Fairness Hearing without further notice to the Settlement Class. The Court reserves the right to enter the Judgment approving the Stipulation regardless of whether it has approved the Plan of Allocation, Plaintiff's Counsel's Fee and Expense Application, and Plaintiff's request for an award for its representation of the Settlement Class.
- The Court approves the form, substance, and requirements of the Notice of 6. Proposed Settlement of Class Action (the "Notice"), the Proof of Claim and Release (the "Proof of Claim"), and the Summary Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action (the "Summary Notice"), annexed hereto as Exhibits A-1, A-2, and A-3, respectively.
- The Court approves the appointment of Kroll Settlement Administration as the Claims Administrator to supervise and administer the Notice procedure in connection with the proposed Settlement, as well as the processing of Proofs of Claim as more fully set forth below.
- The Claims Administrator shall cause the Notice and Proof of Claim, substantially 8. in the forms annexed hereto, to be mailed, by first class mail, postage prepaid, within 21 calendar days of this Order, to all Settlement Class Members who can be identified with reasonable effort.

Within 10 calendar days of this Order, NN, at its expense, shall provide the last known addresses of NN record shareholders to the Claims Administrator for the purpose of identifying and giving notice to the Settlement Class. The Claims Administrator shall use reasonable efforts to give notice to nominee purchasers, such as brokerage firms and other Persons, who purchased or otherwise acquired NN common stock during the Settlement Class Period as record owners, but not as beneficial owners. Such nominee purchasers are directed, within 14 business days of their receipt of the Notice, to either forward copies of the Notice and Proof of Claim to their beneficial owners or to provide the Claims Administrator with lists of the names and addresses of the beneficial owners, and the Claims Administrator is ordered to send the Notice and Proof of Claim promptly to such identified beneficial owners. Nominee purchasers who elect to send the Notice and Proof of Claim to their beneficial owners shall send a statement to the Claims Administrator confirming that the mailing was made as directed. Additional copies of the Notice shall be made available to any record holder requesting such for the purpose of distribution to beneficial owners, and such record holders shall be reimbursed from the Settlement Fund, upon receipt by the Claims Administrator of proper documentation, for the reasonable expense of sending the Notice and Proof of Claim to beneficial owners.

- The Claims Administrator shall cause the Summary Notice to be published once 9. over a national newswire service, within 10 calendar days after the mailing of the Notice.
- The Claims Administrator shall notify all Settlement Class Members of any changes 10. Fairness Hearing by posting notice of the on of Settlement www.NNIncSecuritiesLitigation.com.

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11. Plaintiff's Counsel shall, at least seven calendar days before the Settlement Fairness

Hearing, file with the Court and serve on the Parties proof of mailing of the Notice and Proof of

Claim and proof of publication of the Summary Notice.

12. The form and content of the Notice and the Summary Notice, and the method set

forth herein of notifying the Settlement Class of the Settlement and its terms and conditions, meet

the requirements of New York law, due process, and all other applicable laws and constitute the

best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all

persons and entities entitled thereto and are reasonably calculated under the circumstances to

describe the terms and effect of the Settlement and to apprise the Settlement Class Members of their

right to object to the proposed Settlement and to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class. No

Settlement Class Member will be relieved from the terms and conditions of the Settlement,

including the releases provided pursuant thereto, based upon the contention or proof that such

Settlement Class Member failed to receive actual or adequate notice.

13. In order to be entitled to participate in the Net Settlement Fund, in the event the

Settlement is consummated in accordance with the terms set forth in the Stipulation, each

Settlement Class Member shall take the following actions and be subject to the following

conditions:

(a) Within 90 calendar days after such time as set by the Court for the Claims

Administrator to mail the Notice to the Settlement Class, each Person

claiming to be an Authorized Claimant shall be required to submit to the

Claims Administrator a completed Proof of Claim, substantially in the form

contained in Exhibit A-2 attached hereto and as approved by the Court,

signed under penalty of perjury and supported by such documents as

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specified in the Proof of Claim and as are reasonably available to the Authorized Claimant.

- Except as otherwise ordered by the Court, all Settlement Class Members (b) who fail to timely submit a Proof of Claim within such period, or such other period as may be ordered by the Court, shall be forever barred from receiving any payments pursuant to the Stipulation and Settlement set forth therein. but will, in all other respects, be subject to and bound by the provisions of the Stipulation, the releases contained therein, and the Final Judgment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Claims Administrator may, in its discretion, accept for processing late submitted claims, so long as the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants is not materially delayed. The Claims Administrator may also, in its discretion, waive what it deems to be de minimis or formal or technical defects in any Proof of Claim submitted. In connection with processing the Proofs of Claim, no discovery shall be allowed on the merits of the Litigation or Settlement. No Person shall have any claim against Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, or the Claims Administrator by reason of the decision to exercise such discretion whether to accept late-submitted or technically deficient claims.
- (c) As part of the Proof of Claim, each Settlement Class Member shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Court, with respect to the claim submitted, and shall (subject to effectuation of the Settlement) release all Released Claims as provided in the Stipulation.

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the Litigation, whether favorable or unfavorable, unless they request exclusion from the Settlement Class in a timely and proper manner, as hereinafter provided. A Settlement Class Member wishing to make such request shall, no later than 60 calendar days after the date set for the initial mailing of the Notice to Settlement Class Members, mail a request for exclusion in written form by first-class mail postmarked to the address designated in the Notice. Such request for exclusion shall clearly indicate the name, address, and telephone number of the Person seeking exclusion, that the sender requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class, and must be signed by such Person. Such Persons

Settlement Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in

requesting exclusion are also directed to state the date(s), price(s), and number of shares of NN

common stock they purchased or acquired in NN's September 14, 2018 Secondary Public

Offering. The request for exclusion shall not be effective unless it is made in writing within the

time stated above, and the exclusion is accepted by the Court. Settlement Class Members

requesting exclusion from the Settlement Class shall not be entitled to receive any payment out of

the Net Settlement Fund, as described in the Stipulation and Notice.

15. The Court will consider objections to the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, award to Plaintiff, and/or award of attorneys' fees and expenses. Any Person wanting to object must do so in writing and may also appear at the Settlement Fairness Hearing. To the extent any Person wants to object in writing, such objections and any supporting papers, accompanied by proof of Settlement Class membership, shall be filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York: Commercial Division, 60 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, and copies of all such papers served no later than November 15, 2022, which is 60 calendar days after the date set for the initial mailing of the Notice to the Settlement Class, to each of the following: Jeffrey P. Jacobson, Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP, The Helmsley Building, 230 Park Avenue, 17th Fl., New York,

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New York 10169, on behalf of the Plaintiff and Settlement Class, and Craig Waldman, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, 425 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017, on behalf of the Defendants. Persons who intend to object in writing to the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, Fee and Expense Application, and/or Plaintiff's request for an award for representing the Settlement Class, and desire to present evidence at the Settlement Fairness Hearing, must include in their written objections copies of any exhibits they intend to introduce into evidence at the Settlement Fairness Hearing. If an objector hires an attorney to represent them for the purposes of making an objection, the attorney must both effect service of a notice of appearance on counsel listed above and file it with the Court by no later than November 15, 2022. A Settlement Class Member who files a written objection does not have to appear at the Settlement Fairness Hearing for the Court to consider their objection. If the Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Settlement Fairness Hearing, the Settlement Class Member shall identify any witnesses they may seek to call and exhibits they intend to offer at the Settlement Fairness Hearing in the papers served, as set forth above, no later than November 15, 2022. Any Member of the Settlement Class who does not make their objection in the manner provided shall be deemed to have waived such objection and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness or adequacy of the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation, to the Plan of Allocation, and to Fee and Expense Award to Plaintiff's Counsel and Plaintiff's request for payment, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

16. Any Person that submits a request for exclusion may thereafter submit to the Claims Administrator and Plaintiff's Counsel a written and signed revocation of that request for exclusion, provided that it is received no later than five business days before the Settlement Fairness Hearing, in which event that Person will be included in the Settlement Class.

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All papers in support of the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and Fee and Expense Application by Plaintiff's Counsel and award to Plaintiff shall be filed 14 calendar days prior to the deadline in ¶15 for objections to be filed. All reply papers shall be filed and served at least seven calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing.

- 18. All funds held by the Escrow Agent shall be deemed and considered to be in *custodia* legis of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as such funds shall be distributed pursuant to the Stipulation and/or further order(s) of the Court. The Claims Administrator, Defendants' Counsel, and Plaintiff's Counsel shall promptly furnish each other with copies of any and all objections that come into their possession.
- 19. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, Plaintiff, all Settlement Class Members, and each of them, and anyone who acts or purports to act on their behalf, shall not institute, commence, maintain, or prosecute, and are hereby barred and enjoined from instituting, continuing, commencing, maintaining, or prosecuting, any action in any court or tribunal that asserts Released Claims against any of the Released Parties. Unless and until the Stipulation is cancelled and terminated pursuant to its terms, all proceedings in the Litigation, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to carry out the terms and conditions of the Settlement, are hereby stayed and suspended until further order of the Court.
- All reasonable expenses incurred in identifying and notifying Settlement Class Members, as well as administering the Settlement Fund, shall be paid as set forth in the Stipulation and herein. In the event the Settlement is not approved by the Court, or otherwise fails to become effective, neither Plaintiff nor its counsel shall have any obligation to repay any amounts actually and properly disbursed from the Settlement Fund, except as provided for in the Stipulation.

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21. If any specified condition to the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation is not satisfied

and Plaintiff or Defendants elect to terminate the Settlement, then, in any such event, the Stipulation,

including any amendment(s) thereof, shall be null and void and of no further force or effect (except

to the extent otherwise expressly provided in the Stipulation), without prejudice to any Party, and

may not be introduced as evidence or referred to in the Litigation, or any action or proceeding by

any Person for any purpose, and each Party shall be restored to his, her, or its respective position as

it existed on June 21, 2022.

22. Neither the Stipulation nor the terms of the Settlement, nor any of the negotiations

or proceedings connected with it, nor this Order, shall be construed as an admission or concession

by Defendants of the truth of any of the allegations in the Litigation or of any liability, fault, or

wrongdoing of any kind.

23. The Court may adjourn or continue the Settlement Fairness Hearing without further

written notice.

24. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction over the Litigation to consider all further

matters arising out of or connected with the Settlement. The Court may approve the Settlement,

with such modifications as may be agreed to by the Parties, if appropriate, without further notice

to the Settlement Class.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September

2022

THE HONORABLE ANDREW BORROK, J.S.C.

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