SCHOOL SPECIALTY INC
Form 10-Q
February 22, 2011
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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION 

Washington, DC 20549

## FORM 10-Q

x QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED JANUARY 22, 2011

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM $\qquad$ TO $\qquad$
Commission File Number: 000-24385

## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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| Wisconsin <br> (State or Other Jurisdiction of <br> Incorporation) | $39-0971239$ <br> (IRS Employer |
| :---: | :---: |
| Identification No.) |  |
| (Address of Principal Executive Offices) |  |
| (Zip Code) |  |
|  |  |

(920) 734-5712
(Registrant s Telephone Number, including Area Code)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes " No "

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

Non-accelerated filer " (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)
Smaller reporting company Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ." No x

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer $s$ classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

## Outstanding at

Class
Common Stock, $\$ 0.001$ par value

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

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## PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. Condensed Consolidated Unaudited Financial Statements

## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In Thousands, Except Share Data)

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { January 22, } \\ \text { 2011 } \\ \text { (unaudited) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { April 24, } \\ 2010 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { January 23, } \\ \mathbf{2 0 1 0} \\ \text { (unaudited) } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASSETS |  |  |  |
| Current assets: |  |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 1,667 | \$ 21,035 | \$ 23,459 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of $\$ 1,875, \$ 2,104$ and $\$ 2,665$, respectively | 70,767 | 72,734 | 92,894 |
| Inventories | 80,747 | 99,910 | 89,844 |
| Deferred catalog costs | 16,597 | 13,593 | 10,619 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 13,329 | 14,318 | 11,267 |
| Refundable income taxes |  | 1,539 |  |
| Deferred taxes | 9,867 | 9,867 | 9,805 |
| Total current assets | 192,974 | 232,996 | 237,888 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 64,383 | 66,607 | 65,332 |
| Goodwill | 127,694 | 540,248 | 536,975 |
| Intangible assets, net | 158,205 | 166,552 | 167,449 |
| Development costs and other | 34,352 | 33,118 | 28,019 |
| Investment in unconsolidated affiliate | 27,215 | 28,299 | 29,046 |
| Total assets | \$ 604,823 | \$ 1,067,820 | \$ 1,064,709 |


| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS | EQUITY |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Current liabilities: |  |  |  |  |
| Current maturities - long-term debt | 193,375 | $\$$ | 132,397 | $\$$ |
| Accounts payable | 64,045 | 47,954 | 25,013 |  |
| Accrued compensation | 6,949 | 7,501 | 9,915 |  |
| Deferred revenue | 4,112 | 4,312 | 5,141 |  |
| Accrued income taxes | 19,204 | 7,837 |  |  |
| Other accrued liabilities | 26,266 | 30,905 | 32,872 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Total current liabilities | 313,951 | 223,069 | 211,923 |  |
| Long-term debt - less current maturities | 60,395 | 199,742 | 197,935 |  |
| Deferred taxes | 10,751 | 92,398 | 92,427 |  |
| Other liabilities | 1,423 | 1,423 | 913 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Total liabilities | 386,520 | 516,632 | 503,198 |  |

Commitments and contingencies
Shareholders equity:
Preferred stock, $\$ 0.001$ par value per share, $1,000,000$ shares authorized; none outstanding

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| Common stock, $\$ 0.001$ par value per share, $150,000,000$ shares authorized; $24,290,345 ;$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $24,280,097$ and $24,277,777$ shares issued, respectively | 438,818 | 436,959 | 437,811 |
| Capital paid-in excess of par value | $(186,637)$ | $(186,637)$ | $(186,637)$ |
| Treasury stock, at cost 5,420,210; $5,420,210$ and $5,420,210$ shares, respectively | 22,984 | 24,052 | 19,799 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | $(56,886)$ | 276,790 | 290,514 |
| (Accumulated deficit)/Retained earnings | 218,303 | 551,188 | 561,511 |
| Total shareholders equity | $\$ 604,823$ | $\$ 1,067,820$ | $\$ 1,064,709$ |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED)

(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)


See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

(In Thousands)

|  | For the Nine Months Ended January 22, January 23, 2011 2010 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash flows from operating activities: |  |  |  |
| Net income | \$ $(333,676)$ | \$ | 39,575 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |  |  |  |
| Depreciation and intangible asset amortization expense | 20,742 |  | 19,882 |
| Amortization of development costs | 3,838 |  | 4,191 |
| Amortization of debt fees and other | 1,602 |  | 1,642 |
| Impairment charge | 411,390 |  |  |
| Investment in unconsolidated affiliate | 1,085 |  | 241 |
| Share-based compensation expense | 2,304 |  | 3,033 |
| Deferred taxes | $(82,094)$ |  | 6,071 |
| Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment |  |  | 275 |
| Non-cash convertible debt deferred financing costs | 7,691 |  | 9,696 |
| Changes in current assets and liabilities (net of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations): |  |  |  |
| Accounts receivable | 2,332 |  | 8,773 |
| Inventories | 19,162 |  | 23,277 |
| Deferred catalog costs | $(3,004)$ |  | 4,918 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 2,528 |  | 5,903 |
| Accounts payable | 15,883 |  | $(32,400)$ |
| Accrued liabilities | 13,784 |  | 5,248 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 83,567 |  | 100,325 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: |  |  |  |
| Cash paid in acquisitions, net of cash acquired |  |  | $(11,700)$ |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | $(10,220)$ |  | $(8,494)$ |
| Proceeds from disposal of discontinued operations |  |  | 800 |
| Investment in product development costs | $(6,655)$ |  | $(6,679)$ |
| Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment |  |  | 2,083 |
| Investment in non-controlling interest |  |  | $(2,226)$ |
| Net cash used in investing activities | $(16,875)$ |  | $(26,216)$ |
| Cash flows from financing activities: |  |  |  |
| Proceeds from bank borrowings | 632,600 |  | 304,400 |
| Repayment of debt and capital leases | $(585,660)$ |  | $(356,803)$ |
| Redemption of convertible debt | $(133,000)$ |  |  |
| Payment of debt fees and other |  |  | (238) |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options |  |  | 120 |
| Net cash used in financing activities | $(86,060)$ |  | $(52,521)$ |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | $(19,368)$ |  | 21,588 |

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| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 21,035 |  | 1,871 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | $\$$ | 1,667 | $\$$ |
|  | 23,459 |  |  |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information: | $\$$ | 14,160 | $\$$ |
| Interest paid | 13,110 |  |  |
| Income taxes paid | 3,497 | $\$$ | 11,624 |

On November 13, 2009, the Company completed the divestiture of the School Specialty Publishing business unit to Carson-Dellosa Publishing, LLC, a newly-formed business entity. The fair value of the total contribution was $\$ 29,438$, including cash of $\$ 2,226$ and net assets of $\$ 27,212$.

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

# SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC. <br> NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) 

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

## NOTE 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (which are normal and recurring in nature) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. The balance sheet at April 24, 2010 has been derived from the Company s audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended April 24, 2010. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 24, 2010.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, the Company determined that goodwill and certain indefinite lived assets were impaired at three of the Company s reporting units. Following the completion of the impairment assessment, the Company recorded pre-tax non-cash impairment charges of $\$ 411,390$ in the first quarter of fiscal 2011. These charges were based on current projections and valuation assumptions that reflect the Company s belief that the current macro-economic environment and state budget crisis have decreased school funding more than anticipated. See Note 7 of the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding the non-cash impairment charges.

## NOTE 2 RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In January 2010, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update ( ASU ) No. 2010-06, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, FASB ASC Topic 820. The purpose of ASU No. 2010-06 was to provide for more robust disclosures about the different classes of assets and liabilities measured at fair value, the valuation techniques and inputs used, the activity in Level 3 fair value measurements and the transfers between Level 1, 2, and 3. ASU No. 2010-06 was effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009, except for the disclosures about purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements in the roll forward of activity in Level 3 fair value measurements. Those disclosures are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. ASU No. 2010-06 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company s financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

## NOTE 3 INCOME TAXES

The Company files income tax returns with the U.S., various U.S. states, and foreign jurisdictions. The most significant tax return the Company files is with the U.S. The Company stax returns are no longer subject to examination by the U.S. for fiscal years before 2008. The Company has various state tax audits and appeals in process at any given time. It is not anticipated that any adjustments resulting from tax examinations or appeals would result in a material change to the Company s financial position or results of operation.

The balance of the Company s liability for unrecognized income tax benefits, net of federal tax benefits, at January 22, 2011, April 24, 2010 and January 23 , 2010, was $\$ 1,423, \$ 1,423$ and $\$ 913$, respectively, all of which would have an impact on the effective tax rate if recognized. The Company does not expect any material changes in the amount of unrecognized tax benefits within the next twelve months. The Company classifies accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as income tax expense in its consolidated statements of operations. The amounts of accrued interest and penalties included in the liability for uncertain tax positions are not material.

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

## NOTE 4 SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Changes in condensed consolidated shareholders equity during the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010 were as follows:

| Shareholders equity balance at April 24, 2010 | $\$ 551,188$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Net loss | $(333,675)$ |
| Share-based compensation | 2,304 |
| Income tax deficiency from stock options | $(446)$ |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | $\$ 218,303$ |
|  |  |
| Shareholders equity balance at January 22, 2011 | $\$ 510,279$ |
|  | 39,575 |
| Shareholders equity balance at April 25, 2009 | 3,033 |
| Net income | 120 |
| Share-based compensation | $(248)$ |
| Issuance of common stock in conjunction with stock option exercises | $(244)$ |
| Income tax deficiency from stock options | 8,995 |
| Taxes payable on net settlement of stock options |  |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | $\$ 561,510$ |

Comprehensive (loss)/income for the periods presented in the condensed consolidated statement of operations was as follows:

|  | For the Three Months Ended |  | For the Nine Months Ended |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | January 22, | January 23, | January 22, | January 23, |  |
|  | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 |  |
| Net (loss) income | $\$(20,150)$ | $\$(18,451)$ | $\$(333,675)$ | $\$$ | 39,575 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | 1,145 | $(800)$ | $(1,068)$ | 8,995 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total comprehensive (loss) income | $\$(19,005)$ | $\$(19,251)$ | $\$(334,743)$ | $\$ 48,570$ |  |

## NOTE 5 EARNINGS PER SHARE

## Earnings Per Share

The following information presents the Company s computations of basic earnings per share ( basic EPS ) and diluted earnings per share (diluted EPS ) for the periods presented in the condensed consolidated statements of operations:

|  | Income <br> (Numerator) | Shares <br> (Denominator) | Per Share <br> Amount |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Three months ended January 22, 2011: <br> Basic and diluted EPS | $\$(20,150)$ | 18,870 | $\$(1.07)$ |
| Three months ended January 23, 2010: <br> Basic and diluted EPS | $\$(18,451)$ | 18,849 | $\$(0.98)$ |

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

|  | Income (Numerator) |  | Shares (Denominator) | Per Share <br> Amount |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nine months ended January 22, 2011: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic and diluted EPS | \$ | $(333,675)$ | 18,868 | \$ | (17.68) |
| Nine months ended January 23, 2010: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic EPS | \$ | 39,575 | 18,838 | \$ | 2.10 |
| Effect of dilutive stock options |  |  | 18 |  |  |
| Effect of non-vested stock units |  |  | 45 |  |  |
| Diluted EPS | \$ | 39,575 | 18,901 | \$ | 2.09 |

The Company had additional stock options outstanding of 1,541 and 1,531 during the three and nine months ended January 22, 2011, respectively, that were not included in the computation of diluted EPS because they were anti-dilutive. The Company had additional stock options outstanding of 1,491 and 1,546 during the three and nine months ended January 23, 2010, that were not included in the computation of diluted EPS because they were anti-dilutive.

The $\$ 200,000,3.75 \%$ convertible subordinated notes have no current impact on the Company s denominator for computing diluted EPS because conditions under which the notes may be converted have not been satisfied. See Note 10.

## NOTE 6 SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION EXPENSE

## Employee Stock Plans

The Company has three share-based employee compensation plans under which awards were outstanding as of January 22, 2011: the School Specialty, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (the 1998 Plan ), the School Specialty, Inc. 2002 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2002 Plan ), and the School Specialty, Inc. 2008 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2008 Plan ). All plans have been approved by the Company s shareholders. The purpose of the 1998 Plan, the 2002 Plan and the 2008 Plan is to provide directors, officers, key employees and consultants with additional incentives by increasing their ownership interests in the Company. No new grants may be made under the 1998 Plan, which expired on June 8, 2008. Under the 2002 Plan, the maximum number of equity awards available for grant is 1,500 shares. Under the 2008 Plan, the maximum number of equity awards available for grant is 2,000 shares.

A summary of option activity during the nine months ended January 22, 2011 follows:

|  | Options Outstanding  <br> Weighted-  <br> Average  <br> Exercise  <br> Options Price |  |  | Options ExercisableWeighted- <br> Average <br> Exercise <br> Options <br> Price |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Balance at April 24, 2010 | 1,465 | \$ | 31.35 | 957 | \$ | 34.02 |
| Granted | 252 |  | 18.93 |  |  |  |
| Exercised | (15) |  | 16.06 |  |  |  |
| Canceled | (165) |  | 31.76 |  |  |  |

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

The following table details supplemental information regarding stock options outstanding at January 22, 2011:

|  | Weighted Average <br> Remaining <br> Contractual <br> Term | Aggregate <br> Instrinsic <br> Value |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Options outstanding | 6.28 years | $\$$ |
| Options vested and expected to vest | 6.21 years | 3 |
| Options exercisable | 4.93 years | 3 |


|  | Options Outstanding |  |  |  | Options Exercisable |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Shares Underlying Options | WeightedAverage Life (Years) |  | eightedAverage Exercise Price | Shares Underlying Options |  | ightederage ercise Price |
| \$13.41-\$19.19 | 276 | 9.31 |  | 18.85 | 8 | \$ | 18.21 |
| \$19.20-\$29.48 | 417 | 5.99 |  | 22.54 | 219 |  | 23.80 |
| \$29.49-\$36.01 | 319 | 5.47 |  | 33.31 | 264 |  | 33.71 |
| \$36.02-39.71 | 525 | 5.39 |  | 38.07 | 458 |  | 37.97 |
|  | 1,537 | 6.28 |  | 29.41 | 949 | \$ | 33.34 |

Options are generally exercisable beginning one year from the date of grant in cumulative yearly amounts of twenty-five percent of the shares granted and generally expire ten years from the date of grant. Options granted to directors and non-employee officers of the Company vest over a three year period, twenty percent after the first year, fifty percent (cumulative) after the second year and one hundred percent (cumulative) after the third year. The Company s option plans allow for the net settlement of the exercise price and related employee tax withholding liabilities for non-qualified stock option exercises. For the nine months ended January 22, 2011, approximately 3 new shares were issued upon the exercise of stock options, 12 shares were tendered to satisfy the exercise price, and zero shares were surrendered to satisfy employee tax liabilities.

During the nine months of each of fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2010, the Company granted 77 and 78 non-vested stock unit ( NSU ) awards, respectively, to members of the Company s management under the 2002 Plan. The NSUs are performance-based awards that vest at the end of a three-year cycle and will result in the issuance of shares of the Company s common stock if targeted metrics are achieved at a threshold level or above. The NSUs will be settled in shares of Company common stock with actual shares awarded ranging from $80 \%$ to $200 \%$ of the target number of shares based on actual performance. The awards granted in fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2010 are subject to a one-year performance metric and three-year vesting period. Company performance was at $88 \%$ of the target for the fiscal 2010 awards and the associated expense related to the fiscal 2010 award has been adjusted to $88 \%$, accordingly, and will be recognized over the vesting period which is three years of service from the date of grant. The vesting date for the fiscal 2010 NSU awards will occur on June 22, 2012. The approximate fair value of awards granted during the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010 is $\$ 1,468$ and $\$ 1,590$, respectively, provided the metrics are achieved at the target level. The Company is recognizing share-based compensation expense related to performance-based NSU awards on a straight-line basis over the vesting period adjusted for changes in the expected level of performance. During the three months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010 the Company recognized expense of $\$ 86$ ( $\$ 53$, net of tax) and 222 ( $\$ 136$, net of tax), respectively, related to performance-based NSU awards. During the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, the Company recognized expense of $\$ 259(\$ 160$, net of tax) and $\$ 334$ ( $\$ 204$, net of tax) related to performance-based NSU awards.

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During the first nine months of fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2010, the Company granted 10 and 7 time-based NSU awards to independent members of the Company s Board of Directors with an approximate fair value of $\$ 194$ and $\$ 146$, respectively. The awards vest one year from the date of grant and the Company is recognizing share-based compensation expense related to these awards on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. During the three months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, the Company recognized $\$ 48$ ( $\$ 30$, net of tax) and $\$ 36$ ( $\$ 22$,

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

net of tax), respectively, of expense related to these awards. During the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, the Company recognized $\$ 134$ ( $\$ 83$, net of tax) and $\$ 119$ ( $\$ 73$, net of tax), respectively, of expense related to these awards.

During the first six months of fiscal 2011, the Company awarded 118 time-based restricted stock units ( RSU ) to employees of the Company under the 2008 Plan. The RSUs awarded to senior management vest in cumulative increments of thirty percent after the third year from the date of grant, sixty percent after the fourth year and one-hundred percent after the fifth year. The RSUs awarded to other employees vest in cumulative increments of thirty percent after the second year from the date of grant, sixty percent after the third year and one-hundred percent after the fourth year. The approximate fair value of the awards granted during the nine months ended January 22, 2011 was $\$ 2,250$. During the three months and nine months ended January 22, 2011, the Company recognized \$91 (\$56 net of tax) and \$208 (\$129 net of tax), respectively, of expense related to time-based RSU awards.

During the three months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, the Company recognized $\$ 861$ ( $\$ 635$ related to stock options, $\$ 135$ related to NSU awards and $\$ 91$ related to RSU awards) and $\$ 874$ ( $\$ 616$ related to stock options and $\$ 258$ related to NSU awards), respectively, in share-based compensation expense, which is reflected in selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying condensed consolidated statement of operations. The income tax benefit recognized related to share-based compensation expense was $\$ 334$ and $\$ 339$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, respectively.

During the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, the Company recognized $\$ 2,304$ ( $\$ 1,703$ related to stock options, $\$ 393$ related to NSU awards and $\$ 208$ related to RSU awards) and $\$ 3,033$ ( $\$ 2,580$ related to stock options and $\$ 453$ related to NSU awards), respectively, in share-based compensation expense, which is reflected in selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying condensed consolidated statement of operations. The income tax benefit recognized related to share-based compensation expense was $\$ 894$ and $\$ 1,185$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, respectively. The Company recognizes share-based compensation expense ratably over the vesting period of each award along with cumulative adjustments for changes in the expected level of attainment for performance-based awards.

During the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, total unrecognized share-based compensation expense related to stock options was $\$ 3,223$ and $\$ 4,711$, net of estimated forfeitures, and total unrecognized share-based compensation expense related to NSUs was $\$ 776$ and $\$ 1,146$, and total unrecognized share-based compensation expense related to RSUs was $\$ 1,514$ and zero, respectively, which the Company expects to recognize over a weighted average period of approximately 2.3 years.

Options to purchase, in aggregate, 5 shares of Company common stock were granted during the three months ended January 22, 2011. The weighted average fair value per share of options granted during the three months ended January 22, 2011 was $\$ 4.95$. There were no options granted during the three months ended January 23, 2010. The weighted average fair value per share of options granted during the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010 was $\$ 6.74$ and $\$ 7.26$, respectively. The fair value of options is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes single option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions:

|  | For the Three Months Ended <br> January 22, January 23, <br> 2011 2010 |  | For the Nine Months Ended <br> January 22, January 23, <br> 2011 2010 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average-risk free interest rate | 2.05\% | n/a | 2.00\% | 2.89\% |
| Expected volatility | 36.52\% | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 35.00\% | 33.11\% |
| Expected term | 5.5 years | n/a | 5.5 years | 5.5 years |

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

|  | For the Three Months Ended  <br> January 22, January 23, <br> 2011 2010 |  |  | For the Nine Months Ended |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ary } 22, \\ & \mathbf{0 1 1} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ary } 23, \\ & 1010 \end{aligned}$ |
| Total intrinsic value of stock options exercised | \$ | \$ | 372 | \$ | 61 | \$ | 780 |
| Cash received from stock option exercises | \$ | \$ | 45 |  | 0 | \$ | 120 |
| Income tax benefit/(deficiency) from stock option/NSU activity | \$ 13 | \$ | 89 |  | (446) | \$ | (248) |

## NOTE 7 GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The following tables present details of the Company s intangible assets, excluding goodwill:

| January 22, 2011 | Gross Value |  | Accumulated Amortization |  | Net Book Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Amortizable intangible assets: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Customer relationships (10 to 17 years) | \$ | 36,564 | \$ | $(19,943)$ | \$ 16,621 |
| Publishing rights ( 15 to 25 years) |  | 113,260 |  | $(27,401)$ | 85,859 |
| Non-compete agreements ( 3.5 to 10 years) |  | 7,110 |  | $(6,355)$ | 755 |
| Tradenames and trademarks (10 to 30 years) |  | 3,504 |  | (993) | 2,511 |
| Order backlog and other (less than 1 to 13 years) |  | 2,634 |  | $(1,750)$ | 884 |
| License agreement (10 years) |  | 14,506 |  | $(3,051)$ | 11,455 |
| Total amortizable intangible assets |  | 177,578 |  | $(59,493)$ | 118,085 |
| Non-amortizable intangible assets: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tradenames and trademarks |  | 40,120 |  |  | 40,120 |
| Total non-amortizable intangible assets |  | 40,120 |  |  | 40,120 |
| Total intangible assets | \$ | 217,698 | \$ | $(59,493)$ | \$ 158,205 |


| April 24, 2010 | Gross Value | Accumulated <br> Amortization | Net Book <br> Value |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Amortizable intangible assets: | $\$$ | 36,568 | $\$$ | $(18,121)$ |
| Customer relationships (10 to 17 years) | 113,260 | $\$$ | 18,447 |  |
| Publishing rights (15 to 25 years) | 7,110 | $(23,211)$ | 90,049 |  |
| Non-compete agreements (3.5 to 10 years) | 3,504 | $(5,877)$ | 1,233 |  |
| Tradenames and trademarks (10 to 30 years) | 2,634 | $(1,576)$ | 2,654 |  |
| Order backlog and other (less than 1 to 13 years) | 14,506 | $(1,715)$ | 1,058 |  |
| Perpetual license agreements (10 years) | 177,582 |  | $(51,350)$ | 126,232 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Total amortizable intangible assets | 40,320 |  | 40,320 |  |

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| Total non-amortizable intangible assets | 40,320 |  |  | 40,320 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Total intangible assets | $\$$ | 217,902 | $\$$ | $(51,350)$ | $\$ 166,552$ |

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

| January 23, 2010 | Gross Value |  | Accumulated Amortization |  | Net Book Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Amortizable intangible assets: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Customer relationships ( 10 to 17 years) | \$ | 36,141 | \$ | $(17,413)$ | \$ 18,728 |
| Publishing rights (15 to 25 years) |  | 106,510 |  | $(21,437)$ | 85,073 |
| Non-compete agreements ( 3.5 to 10 years) |  | 7,110 |  | $(5,663)$ | 1,447 |
| Tradenames and trademarks (10 to 30 years) |  | 3,024 |  | (792) | 2,232 |
| Order backlog and other (less than 1 to 13 years) |  | 9,654 |  | $(1,800)$ | 7,854 |
| License agreement (10 years) |  | 12,700 |  | $(1,282)$ | 11,418 |
| Total amortizable intangible assets |  | 175,139 |  | $(48,387)$ | 126,752 |
| Non-amortizable intangible assets: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tradenames and trademarks |  | 40,697 |  |  | 40,697 |
| Total non-amortizable intangible assets |  | 40,697 |  |  | 40,697 |
| Total intangible assets | \$ | 215,836 | \$ | $(48,387)$ | \$ 167,449 |

Intangible amortization expense included in selling, general and administrative expense for the three months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010 was $\$ 2,671$ and $\$ 2,690$, respectively, and $\$ 8,142$ and $\$ 7,833$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, respectively.

Intangible amortization expense for each of the five succeeding fiscal years and the remainder of fiscal 2011 is estimated to be:

| Fiscal 2011 (three months remaining) | 2,692 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Fiscal 2012 | 10,515 |
| Fiscal 2013 | 9,940 |
| Fiscal 2014 | 9,646 |
| Fiscal 2015 | 9,429 |
| Fiscal 2016 | 9,238 |

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

The following information presents changes to goodwill during the period beginning January 23, 2010 through January 22, 2011:
$\left.\begin{array}{llllllllll} & \text { Reporting Units } & & & & \begin{array}{c}\text { Reporting Units } \\ \text { Planning }\end{array} \\ \text { and }\end{array}\right)$

In accordance with the accounting guidance on goodwill and other intangible assets, the Company performs its impairment test of goodwill at the reporting unit level and indefinite-lived intangible assets at the unit of account level during the first quarter of each fiscal year, or more frequently if events or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of its reporting units below their carrying values. The following discussion relates to the goodwill and other intangible assets impairment test performed during the first quarter of fiscal 2011.

According to ASC Topic 350-20-20, a reporting unit is the level at which goodwill impairment is tested. A reporting unit can be an operating segment or one level below an operating segment, also known as a component. ASC Topic 350-20-35-34 states that a component of an operating segment is a reporting unit if the component constitutes a business for which discrete financial information is available for segment management to regularly review the operating results of that component. As of April 24, 2010, the Company had six reporting units, five of which had goodwill balances. The Educational Resources segment consists of the Education Resources and Califone reporting units. The Accelerated Learning segment consists of the Science, Planning and Student Development, Reading, and Health reporting units. The goodwill for each reporting unit is shown in the table above.

The accounting guidance requires a two-step method for determining goodwill impairment. In the first step, the Company determined the fair value of the reporting unit, generally by utilizing a combination of the income approach (weighted $90 \%$ ) and the market approach (weighted $10 \%$ ) derived from comparable public companies. The Company believes that each approach has its merits. However, in the instances where we have utilized both approaches, the Company has weighted the income approach more heavily than the market approach because the Company believes that management s assumptions generally provide greater insight into the reporting unit s fair value. This fair value determination was categorized as level 3 in the fair value hierarchy pursuant to FASB ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures . The estimated fair value of the reporting units was dependent on several significant assumptions, including earnings projections and discount rates.

In performing the impairment assessment, the Company estimated the fair value of its reporting units using the following valuation methods and assumptions:

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1. Income Approach (discounted cash flow analysis) the discounted cash flow ( DCF ) valuation method requires an estimation of future cash flows of an entity and then discounting those cash flows to their present value using an appropriate discount rate. The discount rate selected should reflect the risks inherent in the projected cash flows. The key inputs and assumptions of the DCF method are the projected cash flows, the terminal value of the reporting units and the discount rate. The growth rates used for the terminal value calculations and the discount rates of the respective reporting units were as follows:

|  | Terminal Value <br> Growth <br> Rates | Discount <br> Rate |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Education Resources | $2.0 \%$ | $12.0 \%$ |
| Califone | $2.0 \%$ | $11.5 \%$ |
| Science | $6.0 \%$ | $14.5 \%$ |
| Planning and Student Development | $3.0 \%$ | $11.9 \%$ |
| Reading | $2.0 \%$ | $13.7 \%$ |
| Health | $2.0 \%$ | $13.7 \%$ |

## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

2. Market Approach (market multiples) this method begins with the identification of a group of peer companies in the same or similar industries as the company reporting unit being valued. A valuation average multiple is then computed for the peer group based upon a valuation metric. The Company selected a ratio of enterprise value to projected earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ( EBITDA ) and a ratio of enterprise value to projected revenue as appropriate valuation metrics. These two metrics were evenly weighted for the Education Resources, Reading, and Planning and Student Development reporting units. Various operating performance measurements of the reporting unit being valued are then benchmarked against the peer group and a discount rate or premium is applied to reflect favorable or unfavorable comparisons. The resulting multiple is then applied to the reporting unit being valued to arrive at an estimate of its fair value. A control premium is then applied to the equity value. The Company selected 11 companies that were deemed relevant to the Planning and Student Development and Reading reporting units and 10 companies that were deemed relevant to the Education Resources and Califone reporting units under the guideline public company method to provide an indication of value. A control premium was then applied to the enterprise value of the reporting unit. The control premium was established based on a review of transactions over an 18 month period. The resulting multiples and control premiums were as follows:

|  | EBITDA <br> Multiples | Revenue <br> Multiples | Control <br> Premium |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Education Resources | 8.5 x | 0.4 x | $13.4 \%$ |
| Califone | 6.5 x | $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$ | $13.4 \%$ |
| Reading | 7.1 x | 2.2 x | $17.9 \%$ |
| Planning and Student Development | 6.4 x | 1.5 x | $17.9 \%$ |

The Company did not use the market approach for the Science reporting unit because of the variability in revenue due to the curriculum adoption schedule. The Company did not use the market approach for the Health reporting unit because of the reporting unit s lack of financial history.

Based upon the assessment performed in the first quarter of fiscal 2011, the Education Resources, Science and Planning and Student Development reporting units failed step one of the goodwill impairment test, requiring a step two analysis with respect to those reporting units. In step two, the Company allocated the fair value of the reporting units to all of the assets and liabilities of the reporting units, including any unrecognized intangible assets, in a hypothetical calculation to determine the implied fair value of the goodwill. The impairment charge, if any, is measured as the difference between the implied fair value of goodwill and its carrying value.

As a result of this analysis, $\$ 411,190$ of goodwill was considered impaired during the first quarter of fiscal 2011. Assumptions utilized in the impairment analysis are subject to significant management judgment. Changes in estimates or the application of alternative assumptions could have produced significantly different results. As shown above in the table, the Education Resources reporting unit, which is part of the Educational Resources segment, and the Science and Planning and Student Development reporting units, which are part of the Accelerated Learning segment, were determined to have an impairment of their goodwill balance as of July 24, 2010.

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# SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC. <br> NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) 

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

The Company believed the first quarter was the appropriate quarter for conducting its assessment since the Company s business is highly seasonal, with approximately $75 \%$ of its revenue and over $100 \%$ of its net income occurring in the first two quarters of the fiscal year. The Company has historically had much better insight into the projected annual performance during the first quarter due to the timing of school budgets and ordering by schools and school districts. The fiscal 2011 impairment charge was due in part to the continued deterioration of school spending amid the continuation of state budget challenges and school spending cuts. During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, the Company experienced a significant decline in actual revenue of $23.4 \%$ and operating income of $44.6 \%$ prior to the impact of the impairment charge. Additionally, the Company has experienced a decline in its market capitalization beginning in fiscal 2009 and which continued into the first quarter of fiscal 2011. As of April 24, 2010, the Company s market capitalization was $\$ 463,538$, compared to the Company s book value of $\$ 551,188$ on that date. As of the end of the first quarter ended July 24, 2010, the Company s market capitalization had decreased by an additional $\$ 109,461$ to $\$ 354,077$. During the second and third quarters of fiscal 2011, the Company reviewed both its current market capitalization and future cash flow projections and concluded no evidence of further impairment existed.

The Company also performed an impairment test of its intangible assets during the first quarter of fiscal 2011, and concluded that a $\$ 200$ impairment charge related to a non-amortizable trademark in the Educational Resources segment was necessary. During the second and third quarters of fiscal 2011, the Company concluded no evidence of further impairments existed. The following table presents a summary of the carrying value of indefinite-lived intangible assets:

|  | Educational <br> Resources | Accelerated <br> Learning | Total |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tradenames | $\$$ | $\$ 1,430$ |  | 38,890 |$\$ 38,890$

## NOTE 8 INVESTMENT IN UNCONSOLIDATED AFFILIATE

Investment in unconsolidated affiliate is accounted for under the equity method, and consisted of the following as of January 22, 2011:

|  | Percent- <br> Owned | Equity Method <br> Investment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Carson- Dellosa Publishing, LLC | $35 \%$ | $\$ \quad 27,215$ |

On November 13, 2009, the Company completed the divestiture of the School Specialty Accelerated Learning business unit to Carson-Dellosa Accelerated Learning, LLC, a newly-formed business entity. Under the divestiture agreement, the Company combined its Accelerated Learning unit net assets with those of Cookie Jar Education, Inc. and received a $35 \%$ minority equity interest in Carson-Dellosa Accelerated Learning. The fair value of the total contribution was $\$ 29,438$, including cash of $\$ 2,226$, which was materially consistent with the book value of the Company net assets contributed.

The $35 \%$ investment represents the Company s maximum exposure to loss as a result of the Company s ownership interest. Earnings or losses are reflected in Equity in (losses) earnings of unconsolidated affiliate on the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations.

## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

## NOTE 9 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment consist of the following:

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { January 22, } \\ 2011 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { April 24, } \\ 2010 \end{gathered}$ |  | January 23, 2010 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Land | \$ | 158 | S | 158 | \$ | 158 |
| Projects in progress |  | 7,976 |  | 2,787 |  | 4,037 |
| Buildings and leasehold improvements |  | 29,851 |  | 29,752 |  | 29,722 |
| Furniture, fixtures and other |  | 99,399 |  | 108,968 |  | 102,497 |
| Machinery and warehouse equipment |  | 39,554 |  | 39,397 |  | 39,248 |
| Total property, plant and equipment |  | 176,938 |  | 181,062 |  | 175,662 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation |  | $(112,555)$ |  | $(114,455)$ |  | $(110,330)$ |
| Net property, plant and equipment | \$ | 64,383 |  | 66,607 |  | 65,332 |

Depreciation expense for the three months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010 was $\$ 4,202$ and $\$ 3,996$, respectively, and $\$ 12,600$ and $\$ 12,049$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010, respectively.

## NOTE 10 DEBT

On April 23, 2010, the Company entered into a Credit Agreement which replaced the Company s previous Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of February 1, 2006. Subsequent to the end of the third quarter of fiscal 2011, the Company amended the Credit Agreement. The amended Credit Agreement matures on April 23, 2014 and provides borrowing capacity of $\$ 300,000$. This capacity consists of a revolving loan of $\$ 175,000$ and a delayed draw term loan of up to $\$ 125,000$, which can be used to refinance a portion of the Company s convertible notes. To the extent a lesser amount than $\$ 125,000$ is used on the delay draw term loan, the Company can elect to increase the revolving portion of the facility by the difference. Interest accrues at a rate of, at the Company s option, either a Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin of up to $4.50 \%$, or the lender s base rate plus an applicable margin of up to $3.50 \%$. The Company also pays a commitment fee on the revolving loan and delayed draw term loan of $0.50 \%$ on unborrowed funds. The Credit Agreement is secured by substantially all of the assets of the Company and contains certain financial covenants, including a consolidated total and senior leverage ratio, a consolidated fixed charge coverage ratio and a limitation on consolidated capital expenditures. The Company was in compliance with these covenants at January 22, 2011. The Company closely evaluates its expected ability to remain in compliance with the consolidated total leverage and interest coverage ratios due to the ratios sensitivity to the Company s financial results. The Company expects to remain in compliance with these financial covenants in the future. The effective interest rate under the credit facility for the third quarter of fiscal 2011 was $6.61 \%$, which includes amortization of loan origination fees of $\$ 213$ and commitment fees on unborrowed funds of $\$ 333$. The revolving loan provides for a letter of credit sub-facility of up to $\$ 15,000$, under which $\$ 2,695$ was issued and outstanding as of January 22, 2011. As of January 22, 2011, the outstanding balance on the revolving loan of $\$ 47,500$ was reflected as non-currently maturing, long-term debt in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets.

During 2003, the Company sold an aggregate principal amount of $\$ 133,000$ of convertible subordinated notes due in 2023. The Company used the total net proceeds from the offering of $\$ 128,999$ to repay a portion of the debt outstanding under the Company s credit facility. All of the notes were repaid during the second quarter of fiscal 2011 using proceeds from the Credit Agreement. The notes carried an annual coupon interest rate of $3.75 \%$ until August 1, 2010, at which time the notes provided that they would cease bearing interest and the original principal amount of each note would commence increasing daily by the annual rate of $3.75 \%$. The notes became convertible into shares of the Company s common stock at an initial conversion price of $\$ 40.00$ per share during fiscal 2006 and were recorded as a current liability. Holders of the notes were entitled to surrender the notes for conversion at any time from October 1, 2005 until July 31, 2023. Holders that exercised their right to

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convert the notes would have received up to the accreted principal amount in cash, with the balance of the conversion obligation, if any, in shares of Company common stock or cash, at the Company s discretion. No notes were converted into shares of common stock.

On November 22, 2006, the Company sold $\$ 200,000$ of convertible subordinated debentures due 2026. The debentures are unsecured, subordinated obligations of the Company, pay interest at $3.75 \%$ per annum on each May 30th and November 30th, and are convertible upon satisfaction of certain conditions. In connection with any such conversion, the Company will deliver cash equal to the lesser of the aggregate principal amount of debentures to be

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

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converted or the Company s total conversion obligation, and will deliver, at its option, cash or shares of its common stock in respect of the remainder, if any, of its conversion obligation. The initial conversion rate is .0194574 shares per $\$ 1$ principal amount of debentures, which represents an initial conversion price of approximately $\$ 51.39$ per share. The debentures are redeemable at the Company soption on or after November 30, 2011. On November 30, 2011, 2016 and 2021 and upon the occurrence of certain circumstances, holders will have the right to require the Company to repurchase all or some of the debentures. The Company has reclassified the carrying value of these convertible subordinated debentures from Long-term debt to Current maturities long-term debt as of January 22, 2011.

The estimated fair value of the Company s $\$ 200,000$ convertible subordinated notes at January 22, 2011 was approximately $\$ 197,000$, and the carrying value was $\$ 192,499$. The estimated fair value was determined using Level 2 inputs as described in FASB ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures .

## NOTE 11 SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company determines its operating segments based on the information utilized by the chief operating decision maker, the Company s Chief Executive Officer, to allocate resources and assess performance. Based on this information, the Company has determined that it operates in two operating segments, Educational Resources and Accelerated Learning, which also constitute its reportable segments. The Company operates principally in the United States, with limited segment operations in Canada. The Educational Resources segment offers products that include basic classroom supplies and office products, supplemental learning materials, physical education equipment, classroom technology, and furniture. The Accelerated Learning segment is a PreK-12 curriculum-based publisher of proprietary and non-proprietary products in the categories of science, reading and literacy, coordinated school health, and planning and student development. The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Intercompany eliminations represent intercompany sales primarily from our Accelerated Learning segment to our Educational Resources segment, and the resulting profit recognized on such intercompany sales.

|  | Three Months Ended |  |  | Nine Months Ended |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { January 22, } \\ 2011 \end{gathered}$ | $\mathbf{J a}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { luary } 23 \text {, } \\ & 2010 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { January } 22, \\ 2011 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { uary } 23 \text {, } \\ & 2010 \end{aligned}$ |
| Revenue: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Educational Resources | \$ 69,785 | \$ | 81,984 |  | 432,897 |  | 546,791 |
| Accelerated Learning | 19,907 |  | 21,007 |  | 201,325 |  | 233,573 |
| Corporate and intercompany eliminations | 167 |  | 135 |  | 501 |  | (725) |
| Total | \$ 89,859 | \$ | 103,126 |  | 634,723 | \$ | 779,639 |


| Operating income (loss) and income (loss) before provision for income taxes: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Educational Resources | \$ (7,343) | \$ | $(4,085)$ | \$ $(221,369)$ | \$ | 60,089 |
| Accelerated Learning | $(10,278)$ |  | $(10,284)$ | $(120,318)$ |  | 53,882 |
| Corporate and intercompany eliminations | $(8,599)$ |  | $(8,222)$ | $(27,494)$ |  | $(25,363)$ |
| Operating income (loss) | $(26,220)$ |  | $(22,591)$ | $(369,181)$ |  | 88,608 |
| Interest expense and other | 6,365 |  | 7,505 | 21,241 |  | 22,794 |
| Income (loss) before provision for income taxes | \$ 32,585$)$ | \$ | $(30,096)$ | \$ (390,422) | \$ | 65,814 |

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## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

## (In thousands, except per share amounts)

|  | January 22, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | January 23, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Identifiable assets (as of quarter end): | $\$ 154,606$ | $\$ 420,220$ |
| Educational Resources | 106,566 | 520,236 |
| Accelerated Learning | 343,651 | 124,253 |
| Corporate and intercompany eliminations | 604,823 | $1,064,709$ |
| Total |  |  |


|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Three } \mathrm{I} \\ \text { January } 22, \\ 2011 \end{gathered}$ | Ja | ded ary 23, <br> 10 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Nine } 1 \\ \text { January 22, } \\ 2011 \end{gathered}$ | E | ded ary 23, 2010 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Depreciation and amortization of intangible assets and development costs: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Educational Resources | \$ 1,601 | \$ | 1,713 | \$ 5,071 | \$ | 5,293 |
| Accelerated Learning | 3,413 |  | 3,164 | 11,326 |  | 11,657 |
| Corporate | 2,765 |  | 2,487 | 8,183 |  | 7,124 |
| Total | 7,779 |  | 7,364 | 24,580 |  | 24,074 |

Expenditures for property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets and development costs:

| Educational Resources | $\$ 248$ | $\$$ | 75 | $\$ 880$ | $\$$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Accelerated Learning | 2,845 | 7,269 | 8,247 | 18,875 |  |
| Corporate | 3,478 | 1,810 | 7,615 | 7,440 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 6,571 | 9,154 | 16,742 | 26,980 |  |

## NOTE 12 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Various claims and proceedings arising in the normal course of business are pending against the Company. The results of these matters are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company s consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010, the Company determined, based on an ongoing state tax audit, that the Delta Education, LLC ( Delta ) subsidiary had a liability to the state that survived the Company s acquisition of Delta in fiscal 2006. The Company has estimated the potential exposure for this liability, including interest and net of federal tax benefit, to be a range of $\$ 2,300$ to $\$ 7,600$, depending upon the resolution of certain outstanding issues related to the liability. The Company s best estimate of this liability is $\$ 4,000$, and the Company believes the liability and corresponding operating expense should have been recorded in fiscal 2007. The final determination of the amount of the liability due is not expected to be finalized until later in fiscal 2011, or thereafter. Accordingly, the Company has restated the beginning retained earnings as of April 28, 2007 to reflect this liability. The Company is continuing to negotiate with the state, and it may have claims against various third parties to recover some or all of the amount of the liability.

In addition, the effects of this restatement have impacted the consolidated balance sheet as of April 24, 2010 and January 23, 2010 by increasing Other Accrued Liabilities by $\$ 6,154$, related to the recording of the liability due to the state, increasing Prepaid expenses and other current assets by $\$ 2,154$, related to the recording of the federal tax benefit to be realized, and decreasing Retained earnings by $\$ 4,000$.

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ITEM 2. Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation ( MD\&A )

School Specialty is an education company that provides innovative and proprietary products, programs, and services to help educators engage and inspire students of all ages and abilities to learn. Through each of our leading brands, we design, develop, and provide preK-12 educators with the latest and very best curriculum, supplemental learning resources and classroom basics. Working in collaboration with educators, we reach beyond the scope of textbooks to help teachers, guidance counselors, and school administrators ensure that every student reaches his or her full potential.

Our business is subject to seasonal fluctuations. Our historical revenues and profitability have been dramatically higher in the first two quarters of our fiscal year, primarily due to increased shipments to customers coinciding with the start of each school year. Due to variations in the timing of shipments within this season primarily as a result of changes or delays in school start dates, the Company views a year-over-year comparison of the first nine months of the fiscal year to be a more meaningful analysis than year-over-year comparative results for quarterly periods on an individual basis. The Company s third quarter is historically its lowest revenue and volume quarter. Thus, small changes, whether positive or negative, can have a more dramatic impact on margins.

During the first nine months of fiscal 2011, revenue decreased $18.6 \%$ as compared to the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The Educational Resources and Accelerated Learning segments experienced revenue declines in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 of $20.8 \%$ and $13.8 \%$ respectively. The revenue declines in both the Educational Resources and Accelerated Learning segments were attributable primarily to the current macroeconomic conditions and the impact those conditions have had on state budget funding levels. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, state revenue collection underperformed forecasts during the latest recession. Since approximately $50 \%$ of school funding is provided by states, the Company believes the decreased state revenues are adversely affecting school funding and the related spending by schools. The Company believes that the 2010 funding cycle, which is currently ongoing, may be the bottom of the school spending decline. State revenues, a key component of school funding, are projected to begin to rise in fiscal 2011, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Also contributing to the revenue decline in the supplies category within Educational Resources were execution issues in the Company s pricing and bid strategies. Despite the decline in funding levels, the Company believes it can grow revenues by increasing its market share. The Company believes it has corrected its pricing and bid strategies. In addition, the Company believes expanding the relationship with both large purchasing cooperatives and third party internet resources will enable it to grow revenue. We recently renewed our contract with the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies ( AEPA ) cooperative, with which we have had a relationship with for a number of years. Through AEPA, we can offer virtually all of our products and we are able to retain our long-term customer relationships. As a result of the renewal with AEPA, we will terminate our contract with the US Communities cooperative effective April 1, 2011.

Approximately $58 \%$ of the revenue decline in Accelerated Learning segment was attributable to the fiscal 2010 divestiture of the School Specialty Publishing ( SSP ) business unit. The remaining decline is attributable to the school funding constraints which the Company believes are leading to school districts increasing the decision-making cycles for curriculum purchases.

Competitive pressures have resulted in more significant price discounting, especially in the furniture and supply categories. Gross margin decreased 140 basis points to $40.7 \%$ for the first nine months of fiscal 2011 as compared to $42.1 \%$ for the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The decreased gross margin was related primarily to competitive pricing pressures in our Educational Resources segment.

Selling, general and administrative expenses (SG\&A ) increased 340 basis points as a percent of revenue in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 as compared to the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The increase in SG\&A as a percentage of revenue is due to the fixed cost portion of SG\&A being spread over a smaller revenue base. Total SG\&A declined by $\$ 23.4$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 as compared to the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The Company s current full-time staffing is down approximately 175 individuals as compared to last year s third quarter.

We recorded $\$ 411.4$ million of pre-tax non-cash impairment charges primarily to reduce the carrying value of goodwill of the Education Resources reporting unit, which is part of the Educational Resources segment, and the

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Science and Planning and Student Development reporting units, which are part of the Accelerated Learning segment. The Company experienced a significant decline in revenue and operating income in the first quarter, as education spending continued to suffer from the ongoing economic downturn. This, coupled with the decline in the Company s market capitalization during the first quarter of fiscal 2011, led to the determination during that period that goodwill and an indefinite-lived tradename were impaired.

Operating loss was $\$ 369.2$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2011, a decrease of $\$ 457.8$ million from the prior year s comparable period. Net loss was $\$ 333.7$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2011, a decrease of $\$ 373.3$ million from income of $\$ 39.6$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2010.

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## Results of Continuing Operations

The following table sets forth various items as a percentage of revenues for the three and nine months ended January 22, 2011 and January 23, 2010:

|  | Three Months Ended |  | Nine Months Ended |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | January 22, 2011 | January 23, 2010 | January 22, 2011 | January 23, 2010 |
| Revenues | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% |
| Cost of revenues | 63.3 | 58.9 | 59.3 | 57.9 |
| Gross profit | 36.7 | 41.1 | 40.7 | 42.1 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 65.8 | 63.0 | 34.1 | 30.7 |
| Impairment Charge |  |  | 64.8 |  |
| Operating income/(loss) | (29.1) | (21.9) | (58.2) | 11.4 |
| Interest expense, net | 7.1 | 7.3 | 3.3 | 2.9 |
| Income/(loss) before provision for income taxes | (36.2) | (29.2) | (61.5) | 8.5 |
| Provision for (benefit from) income taxes | (14.8) | (11.5) | (9.1) | 3.3 |
| Earnings/(loss) before investment in unconsolidated affiliate | (21.4)\% | (17.7)\% | (52.4)\% | 5.2\% |

Three months Ended January 22, 2011 Compared to Three months Ended January 23, 2010

## Revenue

Revenue decreased $12.9 \%$ from $\$ 103.1$ million for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 89.9$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011.

Educational Resources segment revenue decreased $14.9 \%$ from $\$ 82.0$ million for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 69.8$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. Both periods are comprised solely of sales to external parties. The decrease in Educational Resources segment revenue was comprised of a decline of approximately $\$ 7$ million in the supplies category and a decline of approximately $\$ 4$ million in the furniture category. The reduction in the supplies category revenue was a result of the continued reductions in ongoing school funding and the lingering effects of the Company s execution issues with respect to pricing and bid strategy. The Company believes these execution issues have been resolved with its recently released marketing programs for the upcoming selling season. These programs include improvements in catalog circulation and clarified pricing to the customer. The Company believes these changes will help increase revenue in the upcoming season despite the continued state budget issues by gaining market share. The decline in the furniture category is attributable to decreased school construction. The Company believes the school constructions market will not significantly improve in the upcoming year.

Accelerated Learning segment revenue decreased by $5.2 \%$ from $\$ 21.0$ million for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 19.9$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. Both periods are comprised solely of sales to external parties. The divestiture of the School Specialty Publishing business unit ( SSP ) in the third quarter of fiscal 2010 accounted for $\$ 1.2$ million of the revenue decline.

## Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased $22.3 \%$, from $\$ 42.4$ million for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 32.9$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in consolidated revenue resulted in $\$ 5.5$ million of the decline in gross profit had consolidated gross margin remained constant. Gross margin decreased 440 basis points from $41.1 \%$ for the three months ended January 23,2010 to $36.7 \%$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in gross margin was related to continued price discounting in response to competitive pressures within the Educational Resources segment, partially offset by a shift in product mix between the Company s segments, which accounted for approximately 40 basis points of gross margin increase in the third quarter of fiscal 2011 as

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compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2010. The Accelerated Learning segment, which generates a higher gross margin due to its curriculum-based products than the Educational Resources segment, accounted for $22 \%$ of the consolidated revenue in the third quarter of fiscal 2011 compared to $20 \%$ of the consolidated revenue in the third quarter of fiscal 2010.

Educational Resources segment gross profit decreased $\$ 7.8$ million from $\$ 30.0$ million for the three months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 22.2$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in segment revenue resulted in $\$ 4.5$ million of the decline in gross profit had consolidated gross margin remained constant. Gross margin in the segment decreased 480 basis points from $36.6 \%$ for the three months ended January 23,2010 to $31.8 \%$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011. Approximately 360 basis points of the decline in gross margin is related to higher price discounting in the furniture and high-volume commodity supply categories in response to competitive pressures. As a result of cuts in education funding, the Company believes educators have become more sensitive to price. As such, the Company determined that additional discounting was necessary to maintain competitive prices and expects this level of discounting will continue for the remainder of the fiscal year. The remaining decline is related to cost increases primarily associated with decreased volume rebates from vendors.

Accelerated Learning segment gross profit decreased $\$ 1.6$ million from $\$ 11.9$ million for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 10.3$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in segment revenue resulted in approximately $\$ 0.6$ million decline in gross profit had segment gross margin remained constant. The remaining decline was related to a decline of 500 basis points in segment gross margin from $56.6 \%$ for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $51.6 \%$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in gross margin was related to unfavorable product mix. Changes in product mix can and did have a more pronounced effect on gross margins in the third quarter since the quarter is historically the Company s lowest revenue and volume quarter.

## Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

SG\&A includes selling expenses, the most significant of which are wages and sales commissions; operations expenses, which includes customer service, warehouse and out-bound freight costs; catalog costs; general administrative overhead, which includes information systems, accounting, legal and human resources; and depreciation and intangible asset amortization expense.

As a percent of revenue, SG\&A increased from $63.0 \%$ for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $65.8 \%$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011. SG\&A decreased $\$ 5.8$ million from $\$ 65.0$ million in the third quarter of fiscal 2010 to $\$ 59.2$ million in the third quarter of fiscal 2011. Approximately $\$ 1.8$ million of the SG\&A savings in the third quarter of fiscal 2011 is related to compensation related decisions during the quarter. SG\&A attributable to the Educational Resources and Accelerated Learning segments decreased a combined $\$ 6.2$ million and Corporate SG\&A increased $\$ 0.4$ million in the third quarter as compared to last year s third quarter. The increase in Corporate SG\&A is a result of an increase in business technology spending to support the Company s business systems and eCommerce platform, which was offset by approximately $\$ 0.5$ million related to the above mentioned compensation related decisions.

Educational Resources segment SG\&A decreased $\$ 4.6$ million, or $13.4 \%$, from $\$ 34.1$ million for the three months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 29.5$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. SG\&A decreased by approximately $\$ 3.2$ million in its variable costs such as transportation, warehousing, and selling expenses associated with decreased revenues. The segment s portion of the consolidated quarterly savings related to the above-mentioned compensation related decisions was approximately $\$ 0.7$ million. Educational Resources segment SG\&A increased as a percent of revenues from $41.6 \%$ for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $42.3 \%$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011.

Accelerated Learning segment SG\&A decreased $\$ 1.6$ million, or $7.3 \%$, from $\$ 22.2$ million for the three months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 20.5$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. The divestiture of the SSP business in the third quarter of fiscal 2010 led to a $\$ 0.6$ million decrease in SG\&A. The segment s portion of the consolidated quarterly savings related to the above-mentioned compensation related decisions was approximately $\$ 0.6$ million. In addition, the segment had a decrease of $\$ 1.5$ million in its administrative costs as a result of the conversion of one of the operating units onto the Company s enterprise resource planning ( ERP ) system. Partially offsetting this decrease was an increase of $\$ 0.8$ million attributable primarily to an increase in its variable costs such

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as selling expense as a result of the expansion of its reading intervention and health sales force. Accelerated Learning segment SG\&A decreased as a percent of revenues from $105.5 \%$ for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $103.2 \%$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011.

## Interest Expense

Net interest expense decreased $\$ 1.4$ million from $\$ 7.5$ million for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 6.4$ million for the three months ended January 22, 2011. Approximately $\$ 1.3$ million of the decrease in interest expense was related to the non-cash interest expense associated with the Company s convertible notes. The decrease for non-cash interest was partially offset by an increased borrowing rate. The Company s overall effective borrowing rate increased from $4.76 \%$ in the third quarter of fiscal 2010 to $5.11 \%$ in the third quarter of fiscal 2011. This increase in the effective borrowing rate was related to the debt pricing on the Company scredit facility, which became effective on April 23, 2010.

## Provision for (Benefit From) Income Taxes

Benefit from income taxes increased $\$ 1.1$ million from a benefit of $\$ 11.9$ million in the third quarter of fiscal 2010 to a benefit of $\$ 13.3$ million in the third quarter of fiscal 2011. This increase was primarily due to an increased pre-tax loss for the third quarter of fiscal 2011 as compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2010. The effective income tax rate increased 130 basis points from $39.5 \%$ for the three months ended January 23, 2010 to $40.8 \%$ for the three months ended January 22, 2011. The increase in the effective tax rate is related to the tax benefit for the Company s share of the loss of the investment in its unconsolidated affiliate.

The effective income tax rate of $40.8 \%$ exceeds the federal statutory rate of $35 \%$ primarily due to state income taxes.

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## Nine Months Ended January 22, 2011 Compared to Nine Months Ended January 23, 2010

Revenue decreased $18.6 \%$ from $\$ 779.6$ million for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 634.7$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011.

Educational Resources segment revenue decreased $20.8 \%$ from $\$ 546.8$ million for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 432.9$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. Revenue amounts for both periods are comprised solely of sales to external parties. The decline in Educational Resources segment revenue was comprised of a decline of approximately $\$ 54$ million in the supplies category and a decline of approximately $\$ 60$ million in the furniture category. The decline in the supplies category revenue was related to reductions or delays in school spending as a result on-going school funding issues, as well as execution issues in the Company spricing and bid strategy. The decline in the furniture category revenue was a result of the continued weakness in the school construction activity. The Company does not anticipate any near-term improvement in this activity. Decreased prices in response to competitive pressures in the high-volume commodity supplies and furniture categories contributed approximately $\$ 20$ million of revenue decline for the segment.

Accelerated Learning segment revenues decreased by $13.8 \%$ from $\$ 233.6$ million for the nine months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 201.3$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. Revenue amounts for both periods are comprised solely of sales to external parties. The divestiture of the SSP business accounted for $\$ 17.5$ million of the decline. The acquisition of AutoSkill International, Inc. ( AutoSkill ), acquired in last year s second quarter, added $\$ 2.8$ million of revenue in the first half of fiscal 2011. The remaining decline of $\$ 17.6$ million is a result of spending reductions across all education categories due to education spending cuts by states, which the Company believes are affecting school districts spending decisions on purchasing new curriculum-based materials.

## Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased $21.3 \%$ from $\$ 328.3$ million for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 258.5$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in consolidated revenue resulted in $\$ 61.0$ million decline in gross profit had consolidated gross margin remained constant. The decrease in consolidated gross margin of 140 basis points decreased gross profit by $\$ 8.8$ million. Gross margin decreased 140 basis points from $42.1 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $40.7 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The decreased gross margin was related to higher price discounts within the Educational Resources segment due to competitive pricing within the market partially offset by increased margins within the Accelerated Learning segment. In addition, a shift in product mix between the Company s segments accounted for approximately 40 basis points of gross margin improvement for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The Accelerated Learning segment, which generates a higher gross margin than the Educational Resources segment, accounted for $31.7 \%$ of the consolidated revenue for the nine months ended January 22, 2011 compared to $30.0 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23, 2010.

Educational Resources segment gross profit decreased $\$ 52.5$ million from $\$ 195.5$ million for the nine months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 143.0$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in segment revenue resulted in a $\$ 40.8$ million decline in gross profit had segment gross margin remained constant. The decrease in gross margin of 280 basis points from $35.8 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23,2010 to $33.0 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22 , 2011 decreased gross profit by $\$ 11.7$ million. Approximately 300 basis points of the decline in gross margin is related to higher price discounting in the furniture and high-volume commodity supply categories. The decline was partially offset by an increase of approximately 50 basis points in gross margin related to product mix shift towards more profitable products within the Educational Resources segment. The remaining decline is related to cost increases primarily associated with decreased volume rebates from vendors.

Accelerated Learning segment gross profit decreased $\$ 17.4$ million from $\$ 130.9$ million for the nine months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 113.5$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The decrease in segment revenue resulted in an $\$ 18.1$ million decline in gross profit had segment gross margin remained constant. The increase in gross margin of 30 basis points from $56.1 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23,2010 to $56.4 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011 resulted in an increase in gross margin of $\$ 0.7$ million. Favorable product mix within the segment, primarily the result of the acquisition of AutoSkill International, Inc. in the second quarter of fiscal 2010 contributed approximately 60 basis points of gross margin expansion. Expedited printing and freight costs for the agenda products reduced gross margin by approximately 30 basis points, particially offsetting this increase.

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## Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

As a percent of revenue, SG\&A increased from $30.7 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $98.9 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. SG\&A increased $\$ 388.0$ million from $\$ 239.7$ million for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 627.7$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The primary increase in SG\&A is attributable to the non-cash impairment charge of $\$ 411.4$ million the Company recorded in the first quarter of fiscal 2011. Due to the significance of the impairment charge in the current year, the Company believes it is more meaningful to compare SG\&A excluding the impairment charge to last year s SG\&A in the comparable period. Excluding the impact of the impairment charge taken by the Company in the first quarter of fiscal 2011, SG\&A decreased $\$ 23.4$ million from $\$ 239.7$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2010 to $\$ 216.3$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2011. Approximately $\$ 2.1$ million of the SG\&A savings for the nine months ended January 22, 2011 is related to compensation related decisions made by management. On the same basis, SG\&A attributable to the Educational Resources and Accelerated Learning segments decreased a combined $\$ 25.7$ million and Corporate SG\&A increased $\$ 2.3$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 as compared to last year s first nine months. The increase in Corporate SG\&A was related primarily to increases in business technology spending to support the Company s business systems and eCommerce platform and incremental depreciation related to the Company s ERP system, which was offset by approximately $\$ 0.6$ million related to the above mentioned compensation related decisions. Excluding the impact of the impairment charge taken by the Company in the first quarter of fiscal 2011, SG\&A as a percent of revenue increased from $30.7 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $34.1 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011, as cost cutting actions did not keep pace with the decline in revenues.

Educational Resources segment SG\&A decreased $\$ 20.9$ million, or $15.4 \%$, from $\$ 135.4$ million for the nine months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 114.5$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The segment experienced a decrease of approximately $\$ 11$ million in its variable SG\&A costs such as transportation, warehousing, and selling expenses associated with decreased revenues. In addition, the segment had a decline of approximately $\$ 4$ million in its marketing costs primarily associated with a reduction in catalog amortization through reduced circulation of supplemental catalogs. The segment $s$ portion of the consolidated quarterly savings related to the above-mentioned compensation related decisions was approximately $\$ 0.8$ million. Educational Resources segment SG\&A increased as a percent of revenues from $24.8 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $26.5 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011.

Accelerated Learning segment SG\&A decreased $\$ 4.8$ million, or $6.2 \%$, from $\$ 77.1$ million for the nine months ended January 23,2010 to $\$ 72.3$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. The divestiture of the SSP business led to a $\$ 7.4$ million decrease in SG\&A. Reduced volume led to approximately $\$ 2.2$ million of a decrease in the segments variable costs such as transportation, warehousing, and selling expenses. In addition, the segment had a decrease of $\$ 1.7$ million in its administrative as a result of the conversion of one of the operating units onto the Company s ERP system. The segment s portion of the consolidated quarterly savings related to the above-mentioned compensation related decisions was approximately $\$ 0.8$ million. Partially offsetting these decreased expenses was an increase of $\$ 2.5$ million in selling expenses as a result of the expansion of the reading intervention and health sales forces. Accelerated Learning segment SG\&A increased as a percent of revenues from $33.0 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $35.9 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011.

## Impairment

The Company recorded $\$ 411.4$ million of impairment charges in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 pursuant to its goodwill and intangible asset assessment. The goodwill impairment charge was $\$ 411.2$ million, which consisted of $\$ 247.9$ million, $\$ 55.4$ million, and $\$ 106.1$ million for the Educational Resources, Science, and Planning and Student Development reporting units, respectively. An impairment of $\$ 0.2$ million was related to an indefinite-lived tradename intangible.

## Interest Expense

Net interest expense decreased $\$ 1.5$ million from $\$ 22.8$ million for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $\$ 21.2$ million for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. Approximately $\$ 1.1$ million of the decrease in interest expense was related to the decreased non-cash interest expense associated with the Company s redemption of $\$ 133.0$ million convertible notes offset by an increase in the Company s overall effective borrowing rate from $4.2 \%$ for the nine months ended January 23, 2010 to $5.0 \%$ for the nine months ended January 22, 2011. This increase in the effective

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borrowing rate was primarily related to the increased commitment fees in the Company s existing credit facility as compared to its previous facility and an increased rate on the Company s average borrowings. The commitment fees on the unused portion of the credit facility during the period was approximately 40 basis points.

## Provision for (Benefit from) Income Taxes

The benefit for income taxes was $\$ 57.8$ million for the first nine months of fiscal 2011. The current year income tax benefit includes $\$ 66.5$ million of income tax benefit related to the $\$ 411.4$ million goodwill and non-amortizable asset impairment. Approximately $\$ 237.8$ million of the goodwill impairment was related to non-deductible goodwill associated with past stock acquisitions for which a tax benefit was not recorded. The remaining impairment of $\$ 173.4$ million generated the $\$ 66.5$ million of tax benefit. The effective tax rate in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 was $14.8 \%$. Due to the significance that the impairment charge has on the effective tax rate, the Company believes the tax provision (benefit) and the effective tax rate excluding the impairment charge are more meaningful comparisons to last year s comparable period. Excluding impairment, the tax provision for the first nine months of fiscal 2011 was $\$ 8.6$ million as compared to $\$ 26.0$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The decline is related to the decrease in earnings before tax. Excluding impairment, the effective tax rate was $41.1 \%$ in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 as compared to $39.5 \%$ in the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The increase in the effective tax rate is related primarily to the tax benefit recorded for the Company s share of the loss from its unconsolidated affiliate and the impact of the permanent items on a lower tax base.

The effective income tax rate of $41.3 \%$ exceeds the federal statutory rate of $35 \%$ primarily due to state income taxes.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

At January 22, 2011, the Company had negative working capital of $\$ 115.0$ million. The negative working capital is a result of the reclassification to a current liability of the Company s $\$ 200$ million convertible subordinated debentures. The Company s capitalization at January 22, 2011 was $\$ 472.1$ million and consisted of total debt of $\$ 253.8$ million and shareholders equity of $\$ 218.3$ million.

On February 16, 2011, the Company obtained an amendment to its credit agreement designed to provide relief on financial covenant ratios to allow the Company to continue to invest in its initiatives and to provide flexibility related to the refinancing of its convertible subordinated notes. The amendment, among other things, reduces the overall credit facility capacity from $\$ 350.0$ million to $\$ 300.0$ million, with the ability to convert up to $\$ 125.0$ million of the revolving commitment to a delayed draw term loan to be used to refinance the Company s convertible notes. Covenant modifications include increases in both the total and senior leverage ratios, while the facility s interest rate will generally increase 750 basis points on borrowings, depending on Company leverage.

The Company s credit facility matures on April 23, 2014 and, as amended provides for $\$ 300.0$ million of availability, which consists of $\$ 175.0$ million of a revolving loan and a delayed draw term loan of up to $\$ 125.0$ million. The delayed draw term loan can be used to refinance a portion of the Company s convertible debt. In certain circumstances, unused amounts on the delayed draw term loan can be converted to availability on the revolver. The amount outstanding as of January 22, 2011 under the revolving and incremental term loans was $\$ 47.5$ million and zero, respectively. The credit facility is secured by substantially all of the Company s assets and contains certain financial and other covenants. During the first nine months of fiscal 2011, the Company borrowed under our credit facility primarily to meet seasonal working capital requirements. The Company sborrowings are usually significantly higher during the first two quarters of the fiscal year to meet the working capital requirements of our peak selling season. As of January 22, 2011, the Company s effective interest rate on borrowings under our credit facility was $4.1 \%$, which excludes amortization of loan origination fee costs and the commitment fees on unborrowed funds. During the nine months ended January 23, 2011, the Company paid commitment fees on unborrowed funds under the credit facility of $\$ 1.0$ million and amortized loan origination fee costs of $\$ 0.6$ million related to the credit facility. The credit facility contains certain financial covenants, including a consolidated total and senior leverage ratio, a consolidated fixed charge ratio and a limitation on consolidated capital expenditures and places certain limitations on our ability to repurchase our common stock. The Company was in compliance with these covenants and restrictions at January 22, 2011.

Holders of the Company s $\$ 133.0$ million, $3.75 \%$ convertible subordinated notes due 2023 presented $\$ 132.9$ million in aggregate principle amount of the notes to the Company for redemption during the second quarter of fiscal 2011. The remaining outstanding amount of this issuance, $\$ 0.1$ million, was called by the Company during the second quarter of fiscal 2011. The Company satisfied the $\$ 133.0$ million repayment in cash by borrowing on its credit facility.

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In November 2006, we sold $\$ 200.0$ million of convertible subordinated debentures due 2026. The debentures are unsecured, subordinated obligations of the Company, pay interest at $3.75 \%$ per annum on each May 30th and November 30th, and are convertible upon satisfaction of certain conditions. In connection with any such conversion, the Company will deliver cash equal to the lesser of the aggregate principal amount of debentures to be converted and the Company s total conversion obligation, and will deliver, at its option, cash or shares of the Company s common stock in respect of the remainder, if any, of the Company s conversion obligation. The initial conversion rate is 19.4574 shares per $\$ 1,000$ principal amount of debentures, which represents an initial conversion price of approximately $\$ 51.39$ per share. The debentures are redeemable at the Company s option on or after November 30, 2011. On November 30, 2011, 2016 and 2021 and upon the occurrence of certain circumstances, holders will have the right to require us to repurchase all or some of the debentures.

Net cash provided by operating activities decreased $\$ 16.7$ million to $\$ 83.6$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2011 as compared to $\$ 100.3$ million provided in the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The decline in net income, adjusted for non-cash items is contributing approximately $\$ 47$ million to the decline in operating cash flow. Partially offsetting this decrease in cash provided by operating activities was year-over-year working capital improvements, particularly for accounts payable. The Company has continued to focus on vendor payment terms allowing an improvement in average days to pay.

Net cash used in investing activities for the first nine months of fiscal 2011 was $\$ 16.9$ million as compared to $\$ 26.2$ million for the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The decrease in cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to two transactions from the first six months of fiscal 2010. The Company used cash for the $\$ 11.7$ million purchase price for the fiscal 2010 acquisition of AutoSkill. In addition, the Company received $\$ 2.0$ million during the first six months of fiscal 2010 attributable to the sale of the Company s Lyons, New York facility.

Net cash used in financing activities increased $\$ 33.6$ million from $\$ 52.5$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2010 to $\$ 86.1$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2010. The increase in net cash used by financing activities was primarily related to the Company s redemption of its $\$ 133.0$ million convertible debt in the second quarter of fiscal 2011, which was partially offset by the combination of incremental cash generated by operating activities and the reduction in cash used in investing activities.

## Fluctuations in Quarterly Results of Operations

The Company s business is subject to seasonal fluctuations. The Company s historical revenue and profitability have been dramatically higher in the first two quarters of its fiscal year, primarily due to increased shipments to customers coinciding with the start of each school year. Quarterly results also may be materially affected by the timing of acquisitions, the timing and magnitude of costs related to such acquisitions, variations in the Company s costs for the products sold, the mix of products sold and general economic conditions. Moreover, the operating margins of businesses the Company acquires may differ substantially from its own, which could contribute to further fluctuation in quarterly operating results. Therefore, results for any fiscal quarter are not indicative of the results that the Company may achieve for any subsequent fiscal quarter or for a full fiscal year.

## Inflation

Inflation, particularly in fuel and other oil-related costs, has had and is expected to continue to have an effect on our results of operations and our internal and external sources of liquidity.

## Critical Accounting Policies

## Goodwill and Intangible Assets, and Long-Lived Assets.

As discussed in Note 7 to the unaudited consolidated financial statements in Item 1 of this report, the Company recorded impairment charges of $\$ 411.2$ million and $\$ 0.2$ million related to goodwill and an indefinite-lived tradename intangible, respectively, in the first quarter of fiscal 2011. The impairment was determined as part of the fair value assessment of these assets.

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Indicators of impairment that were identified during the assessment were a significant decline in our stock price and market capitalization and a decline in our expected future cash flows. The Company s market capitalization declined approximately $24 \%$ during the first quarter of fiscal 2011. In addition, the decline in expected future cash flows was related to the continued deteriorating economic conditions that we believe have resulted in decreased funding of education which, in turn, has caused schools to reduce spending levels. These reductions led to a $23.4 \%$ revenue decline in the first quarter of fiscal 2011 as compared to the first quarter of fiscal 2010. During the second and third quarters of fiscal 2011, the Company reviewed both its current market capitalization and future cash flow projections and concluded no evidence of further impairment existed.

We tested goodwill for impairment by determining the fair value of the Company s reporting units using a combined income (discounted cash flow) and market approach (guideline public company comparables) valuation model. The details regarding the determination of the fair value of the reporting units, including the key assumptions used in the impairment analysis, are discussed in Item 1, Note 7 of this report. The impact of modifying any of these assumptions can have a significant impact on the estimate of fair value and, thus, the estimated recoverability, or impairment, if any, of the asset. Changes in estimates or the application of alternative assumptions could have produced significantly different results.

During the first quarter fiscal 2011 impairment analysis, the Company determined that its Education Resources, Science and Planning and Student Development reporting units had goodwill balances that were impaired. The fair value assessment of the two remaining reporting units with goodwill balances, Califone and Reading, indicated that the goodwill balances of these two reporting units were not impaired as the fair value exceeded the carrying value of the units. Since the modification of assumptions used in the valuation model can have a significant impact on the fair value, the Company performed a sensitivity analysis for the Califone and Reading reporting units. This analysis was completed assuming a 100 basis point increase in the discount rate and a 100 basis point decrease in the terminal growth rate. The Company believes these assumptions have the most sensitivity in the valuation model. The results of this sensitivity analysis are as follows:

|  | Decrease in FV of |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Ceading | Califone |  |
| 100 basis point increase in discount rate | $\$(9,258)$ | $\$(2,294)$ |
| 100 basis point decrease in terminal growth rate | $\$(4,121)$ | $\$(1,215)$ |

Because the valuation of the Reading and Califone reporting units concluded the fair value exceeded carrying value by $\$ 52,154$ and $\$ 5,769$, respectively, the decreases in fair value for the sensitivity analysis would not have impaired the goodwill assessment of these two reporting units.

## Forward-Looking Statements

Statements in this Quarterly Report which are not historical are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The forward-looking statements include: (1) statements made under Item 2, Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation, including, without limitation, statements with respect to internal growth plans, projected revenues, margin improvement, capital expenditures and adequacy of capital resources; and (2) statements included or incorporated by reference in our future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements also include statements regarding the intent, belief or current expectation of School Specialty or its officers. Forward-looking statements include statements preceded by, followed by or that include forward-looking terminology such as may, should, believes, expects, anticipates, estimates, continues or similar expres

All forward-looking statements included in this Quarterly Report are based on information available to us as of the date hereof. We do not undertake to update any forward-looking statements that may be made by us or on our behalf, in this Quarterly Report or otherwise. Our actual results may differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements identified above. Factors which may cause such a difference to occur include, but are not limited to, the risk factors set forth in Item 1A, Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 24, 2010.

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ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

There have been no material changes in qualitative and quantitative disclosures about market risk from what was reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 24, 2010.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures

## Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Based on an evaluation as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report, the Company s principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that the Company s disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act )) are effective for the purposes set forth in the definition of the Exchange Act rules.

## Changes in Internal Control

No change in our internal control over financial reporting occurred during our most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially effect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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## PART II OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. Legal Proceedings
There have been no material changes in litigation matters subject to the Company in the first nine months of fiscal 2011.

ITEM 1A. Risk Factors

The business and financial results of the Company are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties. The risks and uncertainties have not changed materially from those reported in the our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 24, 2010.

ITEM 6. Exhibits

See the Exhibit Index, which is incorporated herein by reference.

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

## SCHOOL SPECIALTY, INC.

(Registrant)

February 22, 2011
Date

February 22, 2011
Date
/s/ David J. Vander Zanden
David J. Vander Zanden
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ David N. Vander Ploeg
David N. Vander Ploeg
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

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## EXHIBIT INDEX

## Exhibit No.

## Description

3.1a Amended and Restated By-Laws of School Specialty, Inc., incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1(a) to the School Specialty, Inc. Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 22, 2010.
32.1 Section 1350 Certification, by Chief Executive Officer.
32.2 Specialty, Inc. Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 22, 2010. School Specialty, Inc. Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 18, 2010.

Statement Regarding Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification, by Chief Executive Officer.
Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification, by Chief Financial Officer.

Section 1350 Certification, by Chief Financial Officer.

Amended and Restated By-Laws of School Specialty, Inc., incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1(b) to the School

First Amendment to the Credit Agreement dated April 23, 2010 incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the

