



**UNIFIRST CORPORATION**  
**68 Jonspin Road**  
**Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**  
**To Be Held On Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Annual Meeting”) of UniFirst Corporation (the “Company”) will be held at the corporate offices of the Company located at 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887 on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 8:30 A.M. Eastern Time for the following purposes:

1. To elect two Class III Directors, nominated by the Board of Directors, each to serve for a term of three years until the 2025 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified;
2. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2022; and
3. To consider and act upon any other matters which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Proposal 1 above relates solely to the election of two Class III Directors of the Company nominated by the Board of Directors and does not include any other matters relating to the election of directors, including, without limitation, the election of directors nominated by any shareholder of the Company.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on November 12, 2021 as the record date for the Annual Meeting. All shareholders of record on that date are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting.

Under Securities and Exchange Commission rules, the Company is providing access to the proxy materials for the Annual Meeting to shareholders via the Internet. Accordingly, you can access the proxy materials at [www.edocumentview.com/UNF](http://www.edocumentview.com/UNF). Instructions for accessing the proxy materials and voting are described below and in the Annual Shareholder Meeting Notice (the “Notice”) that you received. Please review the proxy materials prior to voting.

**Your vote is very important.** If you hold your shares in your own name as a holder of record with our transfer agent, you may vote by one of the following methods:

1. **BY INTERNET**, by going to the Internet web address [www.envisionreports.com/UNF](http://www.envisionreports.com/UNF) and following the instructions on the Notice you received and on the website. In order to vote via the Internet, you must use the numbers provided in the shaded bar of the Notice. Proxies submitted by the Internet must be received by 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time, on January 10, 2022.
2. **BY TELEPHONE**, if you received printed copies of the proxy materials by mail in accordance with the instructions in the Notice, by dialing 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) within the United States, U.S. territories, and Canada any time on a touch tone telephone and following the instructions provided by the recorded message. In order to vote via telephone, you must use the numbers provided in the proxy card. Proxies submitted by telephone must be received by 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time, on January 10, 2022.
3. **BY PROXY CARD**, if you received printed copies of the proxy materials by mail in accordance with the instructions in the Notice, by completing, dating, signing, and returning the proxy card in the postage-prepaid envelope provided. If you vote by Internet or telephone, please do not mail your proxy card. Your proxy card must be received prior to the Annual Meeting.

If you are a stockholder of record and attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote in person by ballot even if you have previously voted by Internet, by telephone or by returning your proxy card. Any proxy may be revoked by delivery of a later dated proxy. **We encourage you to vote prior to the Annual Meeting by Internet, telephone or proxy card in accordance with the instructions above.**

If your shares are held by a broker, bank or other nominee in street name, please follow the instructions you receive from your broker, bank or other nominee to have your shares voted. If your shares are held by a broker, bank or other nominee in street name and you wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you will need to obtain a “legal proxy” from the broker, bank or other nominee that holds your shares of record prior to attending the meeting and voting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

SCOTT C. CHASE, Secretary

Wilmington, Massachusetts  
December 2, 2021

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE REVIEW THE PROXY MATERIALS, INCLUDING OUR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K, AT [WWW.EDOCUMENTVIEW.COM/UNF](http://WWW.EDOCUMENTVIEW.COM/UNF) AND VOTE BY INTERNET AT [WWW.ENVISIONREPORTS.COM/UNF](http://WWW.ENVISIONREPORTS.COM/UNF), BY TELEPHONE OR BY PROXY CARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT AND THE NOTICE. IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE YOUR SHARES VOTED AS INSTRUCTED IN THE PROXY OR YOU MAY WITHDRAW YOUR PROXY AT THE MEETING AND VOTE YOUR SHARES IN PERSON. IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD IN STREET NAME, PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR BROKER, BANK OR OTHER NOMINEE TO HAVE YOUR SHARES VOTED.**

### **Important**

Please note that due to security procedures, if you decide to attend the Annual Meeting, you will be required to show a form of picture identification to gain access to the offices of UniFirst Corporation. Please contact the Company’s Investor Relations group at (978) 658-8888 if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting

**UNIFIRST CORPORATION**  
**68 Jonspin Road**  
**Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887**

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**PROXY STATEMENT FOR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**to be held on January 11, 2022**  
**at 8:30 A.M. Eastern Time**  
**at the corporate offices of UniFirst Corporation**  
**located at 68 Jonspin Road,**  
**Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887.**

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**General Information**

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of UniFirst Corporation (the “Company”, “UniFirst”, “we”, “our” or “us”) for use at the 2022 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 (the “Annual Meeting”) and at any adjournments or postponements thereof. This Proxy Statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders are first being made available to shareholders on or about December 2, 2021.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on November 12, 2021 as the “Record Date” for the determination of the shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. As of the close of business on the Record Date, there were outstanding and entitled to vote 15,225,908 shares of common stock, par value \$0.10 per share (“Common Stock”), and 3,643,009 shares of Class B common stock, par value \$0.10 per share (“Class B Common Stock”). Transferees after such date will not be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote per share. Each share of Class B Common Stock is entitled to ten votes per share.

As more fully described in this Proxy Statement, the purposes of the Annual Meeting are (1) to elect two Class III Directors nominated by the Board of Directors, each to serve for a term of three years until the 2025 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified; (2) to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2022; and (3) to consider and act upon any other matters which may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

With respect to the election of two Class III Directors, (1) a plurality of the votes cast by holders of shares of Common Stock, voting separately as a single class and represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote thereon, is required to elect Phillip L. Cohen and (2) a plurality of the votes cast by holders of shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, voting together as a single class and represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote thereon, is required to elect Cynthia Croatti. Votes may be cast “For” or “Withhold” with respect to the election of each of Mr. Cohen and Ms. Croatti. With respect to the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm and each other matter expected to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by holders of shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, voting together as a single class and represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote thereon, is required for approval. Votes may be cast “For”, “Against” or “Abstain” on the proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2022.

The representation in person or by proxy of at least a majority of all Common Stock and Class B Common Stock issued, outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Consistent with applicable law, the Company intends to count abstentions and broker non-votes for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business. A broker “non-vote” refers to shares held by a broker or nominee that does not have the authority, either express or discretionary, to vote on a particular matter. Any shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote or otherwise) will have no impact on the election of Directors, except to the extent that in a contested election the failure to vote for an individual results in another individual receiving a larger percentage of votes, and no impact on the proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2022 or any other matter which may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

**Your vote is very important.** If you hold your shares in your own name as a holder of record with our transfer agent, you may vote by one of the following methods:

1. **BY INTERNET**, by going to the Internet web address [www.envisionreports.com/UNF](http://www.envisionreports.com/UNF) and following the instructions on the Annual Shareholder Meeting Notice (the “Notice”) you received and on the website. In order to vote via the Internet, you must use the numbers provided in the shaded bar of the Notice. Proxies submitted by the Internet must be received by 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time, on January 10, 2022.
2. **BY TELEPHONE**, if you received printed copies of the proxy materials by mail in accordance with the instructions in the Notice, by dialing 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) within the United States, U.S. territories, and Canada any time on a touch tone telephone and following the instructions provided by the recorded message. In order to vote via telephone, you must use the numbers provided in the proxy card. Proxies submitted by telephone must be received by 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time, on January 10, 2022.
3. **BY PROXY CARD**, if you received printed copies of the proxy materials by mail in accordance with the instructions in the Notice, by completing, dating, signing, and returning the proxy card in the postage-prepaid envelope provided. If you vote by Internet or telephone, please do not mail your proxy card. Your proxy card must be received prior to the Annual Meeting.

If you are a stockholder of record and you attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote in person by ballot at the Annual Meeting even if you have previously voted by Internet, by telephone or by returning your proxy card. Any proxy may be revoked by delivery of a later dated proxy. **We encourage you to vote prior to the Annual Meeting by Internet, telephone or proxy card in accordance with the instructions above.**

If your shares are held by a broker, bank or other nominee in street name, please follow the instructions you receive from your broker, bank or other nominee to have your shares voted. If your shares are held by a broker, bank or other nominee in street name and you wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you will need to obtain a “legal proxy” from the broker, bank or other nominee that holds your shares of record prior to attending the meeting and voting.

**Shares represented by a properly executed proxy received prior to the times above and not revoked will be voted at the Annual Meeting as directed on the proxy. If a properly executed proxy is submitted and no instructions are given, the proxy (1) will be voted “For” the election of each of the two nominees for Class III Director of the Company named in this Proxy Statement, each to serve for a term of three years until the 2025 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified, and (2) will be voted “For” the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2022. It is not anticipated that any matter other than those set forth in this Proxy Statement will be presented at the Annual Meeting. If other matters are presented, proxies will be voted in accordance with the discretion of the proxy holders. The Board of Directors recommends a vote (1) “For” the election of each of the two nominees for Class III Director of the Company named in this Proxy Statement, each to serve for a term of three years until the 2025 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified, and (2) “For” the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2022.**

A shareholder of record may revoke a proxy at any time before it has been exercised by (1) filing a written revocation with the Secretary of the Company at the address of the Company set forth above, (2) properly casting a new vote via the Internet or by telephone at any time before the closure of the Internet or telephone voting facilities, (3) filing a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or (4) appearing in person and voting by ballot at the Annual Meeting. Any shareholder of record as of the Record Date attending the Annual Meeting may vote in person whether or not a proxy has been previously given, but the presence (without further action) of a shareholder at the Annual Meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy. Any written revocation of a proxy should be sent to UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, Attention: Secretary prior to the vote at the Annual Meeting.

If your shares are held through a broker, bank or other nominee and you instructed your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares by following the instructions that the broker, bank or other nominee provided to you, you may change your voting instructions by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee prior to the deadline for voting.

The expense of this proxy solicitation will be borne by the Company. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, on the Internet websites [www.edocumentview.com/UNF](http://www.edocumentview.com/UNF) and [www.envisionreports.com/UNF](http://www.envisionreports.com/UNF) and by telephone, the Directors, officers and employees of the Company may also solicit proxies personally, by telephone or by mail without special compensation for such activities. The Company may also request persons, firms and corporations holding shares in their names or in the names of their nominees, which are beneficially owned by others, to send proxy material to and obtain proxies from such beneficial owners. The Company will reimburse such holders for their reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

The Company's 2021 Annual Report to Shareholders, including the Company's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended August 28, 2021 (the "2021 fiscal year"), is being made available to shareholders concurrently with this Proxy Statement at [www.edocumentview.com/UNF](http://www.edocumentview.com/UNF) and [www.envisionreports.com/UNF](http://www.envisionreports.com/UNF).

## **PROPOSAL 1**

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the Company is currently composed of seven members, divided into three classes of two, three and two directors, respectively. Generally, one class is elected each year at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders and the Directors in each class serve for a term of three years and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. As the term of one class expires, a successor class is elected at each Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

At the Annual Meeting, two Class III Directors will be elected to serve until the 2025 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. The Board of Directors has nominated Phillip L. Cohen as a Class III Director to be elected by holders of Common Stock, voting separately as a single class, and has nominated Cynthia Croatti as a Class III Director to be elected by holders of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, voting together as a single class (together, the “Nominees”).

The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Cohen is “independent” under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Cohen has communicated to the Board of Directors that if elected at the Annual Meeting, he currently intends not to seek re-election at the completion of his three-year term and will work at the appropriate time during his term to transition his role as chair of the Audit Committee to another current or future member of the Board of Directors.

Unless otherwise instructed, the persons named in the proxy will vote the shares to which the proxy relates “FOR” the election of the Nominees to the Board of Directors. While the Company has no reason to believe that any of the Nominees will be unable to serve as a Director, in the event any of the Nominees should become unavailable to serve at the time of the Annual Meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the proxy to vote such proxy for such other person or persons as the Board of Directors may recommend.

#### **Vote Required**

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast by holders of shares of Common Stock, voting separately as a single class and represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote thereon, is required to elect Mr. Cohen. The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast by holders of shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, voting together as a single class and represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote thereon, is required to elect Ms. Croatti.

#### **Recommendation**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” THE ELECTION OF PHILLIP L. COHEN AND CYNTHIA CROATTI AS CLASS III DIRECTORS.**

## Information Regarding Nominees and Directors

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the two nominees for election as Class III Directors at the Annual Meeting and those continuing Directors of the Company whose terms expire at the Annual Meetings of Shareholders in 2023 and 2024, based on information furnished to the Company by each Director.

<b>Class III Nominees for Election at 2022 Annual Meeting – Nominated to Serve for a Term that Expires in 2025</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Director Since</b>
<b><u>Phillip L. Cohen (1)</u></b> <b>Mr. Cohen</b> has served as Director of the Company since 2000. He was elected Chair of the Audit Committee in 2003. Mr. Cohen has more than 39 years of accounting, auditing and financial reporting experience in a broad range of industries. He was a partner with international accounting firm Arthur Andersen & Co. LLP from 1965 until his retirement in 1994 and has been a corporate director of several firms (Nortek, Inc., Bike Athletic Co., S/R Industries, Inc.), financial consultant and private trustee since that date. He is a former Director and Treasurer of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau and is a Director of Kazmaier Associates, Inc. Mr. Cohen brings to the Board of Directors his extensive public accounting and financial industry experience.	90	2000
<b><u>Cynthia Croatti</u></b> <b>Ms. Croatti</b> joined the Company in 1980. Ms. Croatti is an Executive Vice President and her primary focus is on advancing key initiatives aimed at enhancing the Company's culture, branding, and long-term strategy. During her tenure at the Company, she previously had primary responsibility for overseeing the human resources and purchasing functions. Ms. Croatti has served as a Director since 1995 and previously served as Treasurer. Ms. Croatti brings to the Board of Directors her detailed knowledge of the Company and the Company's industry and her executive leadership experience.	66	1995
<b>Continuing Class II Directors – Term Expires in 2023</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Director Since</b>
<b><u>Thomas S. Postek</u></b> <b>Mr. Postek</b> has served as Director of the Company since 2008. He is a CFA charter holder and has been affiliated with CIBC Private Wealth Management and its predecessor. Mr. Postek was a member of the Board of Directors of Lawson Products, Inc., a publicly traded distributor of fasteners and other industrial supplies from 2005 to May 2019. From 1986 to 2001, Mr. Postek was a partner and principal of William Blair & Company, LLC. Mr. Postek brings to the Board of Directors extensive financial industry experience as well as a long-standing understanding of the Company's industry and its competitors.	79	2008
<b><u>Steven S. Sintros</u></b> <b>Mr. Sintros</b> joined the Company in 2004. Mr. Sintros has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director since July 2017. He has overall responsibility for management of the Company. He previously served as our Chief Financial Officer from January 2009 until January 2018. Prior to taking the role of Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Sintros held various financial roles within the Company. Mr. Sintros brings to the Board his executive leadership experience and his significant knowledge of, and experience with, the Company and its industry.	48	2017
<b><u>Raymond C. Zemlin</u></b> <b>Mr. Zemlin</b> has served as Director of the Company since January 2017 and as Chairman of the Board since October 2017. Mr. Zemlin was a partner in the law firm Goodwin Procter LLP until his retirement in September 2017. Mr. Zemlin joined Goodwin Procter LLP in 1980 and became a partner in 1988. While at Goodwin Procter LLP, he focused primarily on securities law, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and governance matters for public companies. Mr. Zemlin brings to the Board of Directors an in-depth knowledge of the Company and the industries in which it operates combined with over 35 years of legal expertise and experience.	66	2017



Continuing Class I Directors – Term Expires in 2024	Age	Director Since
<p><u>Kathleen M. Camilli (1)</u></p> <p><b>Ms. Camilli</b> has served as Director of the Company since January 2012. She is Founder and Principal of Camilli Economics, LLC, which provides clients, including corporations and investment organizations, with “real world” economic guidance for smart business and financial decisions. Ms. Camilli has served on the Board of Directors of AGF Management Limited, an investment management firm listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, since June 2015. Ms. Camilli served on the Board of Directors of MASSBANK Corp., a bank holding company, from 2003 to 2008. Ms. Camilli brings to the Board of Directors her substantial experience as an economist for several of the leading financial institutions in the world.</p>	62	2012
<p><u>Michael Iandoli</u></p> <p><b>Mr. Iandoli</b> has served as Director of the Company since 2007. He currently consults with various businesses in the areas of staffing and managed service programs. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of PEAK Technical Staffing USA, a provider of technical staffing, from August 2013 to April 2020. Mr. Iandoli previously served as Director of Strategic Staffing at PEAK Technical Staffing USA from 2007 to August 2013. He served for over 30 years as a senior executive and President of TAC Worldwide Companies, a billion dollar international contract labor firm serving the automotive and high-tech industries. Mr. Iandoli was President of the Executive Committee at the Larz Anderson Auto Museum from 2007 to January 2014. Mr. Iandoli brings to the Board of Directors his extensive executive leadership and operational experience.</p>	76	2007

- (1) The Company has designated Mr. Cohen and Ms. Camilli as the Directors to be elected by the holders of Common Stock voting separately as a single class.

### Meetings of the Board of Directors and Its Committees

*Board of Directors.* The Company’s Board of Directors is divided into three classes, and the members of each class serve for staggered three-year terms. The Board is currently composed of two Class I Directors (Ms. Camilli and Mr. Iandoli), three Class II Directors (Messrs. Postek, Sintros and Zemlin) and two Class III Directors (Mr. Cohen and Ms. Croatti). The terms of the continuing Class I and II Directors will expire upon the election and qualification of Directors at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in 2024 and 2023, respectively. At each Annual Meeting of Shareholders, Directors generally will be elected for a full term of three years to succeed those Directors whose terms are expiring. The Board of Directors held eleven meetings during the Company’s 2021 fiscal year.

*Audit Committee.* During the 2021 fiscal year, the Audit Committee consisted of Messrs. Cohen (Chair) and Postek and Ms. Camilli. The Audit Committee held five meetings during fiscal 2021. The Audit Committee is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors in its oversight of (1) the integrity of the Company’s financial statements and reporting process, (2) the qualifications, independence and performance of the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm, (3) the performance of the Company’s internal audit function, and (4) the Company’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee have adopted a written Audit Committee Charter, which is reviewed annually and revised from time to time. A current copy of the Audit Committee Charter, as amended and restated, is available on the Company’s website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com). The Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of the Audit Committee is “independent” under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) and has determined that Phillip L. Cohen and Thomas S. Postek are “audit committee financial experts” under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee have adopted a Statement of Corporate Policy and Code of Business Conduct, a current copy of which is available on the Company’s website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com). The Company’s Audit Committee Complaint Procedure is also available on the Company’s website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com).



*Compensation Committee.* During the 2021 fiscal year, the Compensation Committee consisted of Messrs. Iandoli (Chair), Cohen, Postek and Zemlin and Ms. Camilli. The Compensation Committee met on five occasions during fiscal 2021. The Compensation Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the Company's executive compensation program, recommending awards under the Company's equity compensation plans and establishing the compensation for the Company's Chief Executive Officer. The Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of the Compensation Committee is "independent" under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. The Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee have adopted a written Compensation Committee Charter, which is reviewed annually and revised from time to time. A current copy of the Compensation Committee Charter is available on the Company's website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com).

*Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.* During the 2021 fiscal year, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consisted of Messrs. Zemlin (Chair), Cohen and Iandoli. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met on ten occasions in fiscal 2021. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews and evaluates potential nominees for election or appointment to the Board of Directors and recommends such nominees to the full Board of Directors. The Board of Directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee have adopted a written Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter, which is reviewed annually and revised from time to time. A current copy of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter is available on the Company's website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com). The Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is "independent" under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's policy is to review and consider all Director candidates recommended by any of the Company's Directors or shareholders. Such review and consideration is to proceed in accordance with the Company's By-laws, Corporate Governance Guidelines and Policy Regarding New Director Nominations. See "Other Matters — Shareholder Proposals" for a summary of certain of these requirements. While neither the Board of Directors nor the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has a specific policy with respect to diversity, the Policy Regarding New Director Nominations provides that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes that director candidates should have a background that is complementary to that of the existing Board members so as to provide management and the Board of Directors with a diversity and freshness of views. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is also responsible for developing and recommending to the Board of Directors a set of Corporate Governance Guidelines applicable to the Company and periodically reviewing such guidelines and recommending any changes to those guidelines to the Board of Directors. The current Corporate Governance Guidelines are available on the Company's website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com). In addition, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee maintains a Policy Regarding New Director Nominations, a current copy of which is available on the Company's website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com). Since this policy was adopted, there have been no material changes to the procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the Board of Directors.

Each Director participated in at least 75% of all of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the committees of which the Director was a member held during the last fiscal year. Our Annual Meeting of Shareholders is generally held to coincide with one of the Board's regularly scheduled meetings. Directors are strongly encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. Each of the Directors participated in the 2021 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Please note that information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference in, or considered to be a part of, this Proxy Statement.

### **Independence of Board Members**

The Board of Directors has determined that each of Messrs. Cohen, Iandoli, Postek and Zemlin and Ms. Camilli is an "independent director" in accordance with the corporate governance rules of the New York Stock Exchange as a result of having no material relationship with the Company other than (1) serving as a Director and a Board Committee member, (2) receiving related fees as disclosed in this Proxy Statement and (3) having beneficial ownership of the Company's securities as disclosed in the section of this Proxy Statement entitled - "Security Ownership of Management, Directors, Director Nominees and Principal Shareholders."

### **Board Leadership Structure**

Mr. Sintros serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer and as Director, and Mr. Zemlin, an independent Director, serves as Chairman of the Board. The Board of Directors believes that having independent Board leadership ensures strong independent oversight. Mr. Zemlin presides at all meetings of the Board of Directors and chairs the executive sessions of independent Directors, who regularly meet in executive sessions at which only independent Directors are present. Mr. Zemlin also provides input to Mr. Sintros and makes suggestions regarding meeting agendas. Mr. Zemlin, from time to time, provides feedback to the President and Chief Executive Officer on executive sessions and facilitates discussion among the independent Directors outside of meetings of the Board of Directors.

## **Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the Company's risk assessment and management function, considering the Company's major financial risk exposures and evaluating the steps that the Company's management has taken to monitor and control such exposures. For example, the Board of Directors receives periodic reports from senior management on areas of material risk to the Company, including operational, financial, legal and regulatory and reputational risks. The Company believes that the leadership structure of the Board of Directors supports effective oversight of risk assessment and management.

## **Risk Considerations in the Company's Compensation Programs**

In connection with the Compensation Committee's compensation reviews, the Compensation Committee assesses whether the Company's compensation policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. Based on its review, the Compensation Committee believes that the mix and design of the Company's compensation plans and policies do not encourage employees to assume excessive risk and therefore are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. In making this determination, the Compensation Committee considered a number of matters, including the following elements of the Company's executive compensation plans and policies: (1) the Company sets performance goals that the Company believes are reasonable in light of past performance and market conditions; (2) the long-term vesting for the Company's equity incentive awards helps to align the interests of management with those of the Company's shareholders in respect of the Company's long-term performance; (3) a range of levels of performance under the Company's cash incentive bonus plans and its CEO incentive equity awards results in corresponding levels of compensation under those plans, rather than an "all-or-nothing" approach; and (4) achievement of the targets under the Company's bonus plans is based on the satisfaction of corporate performance metrics such as revenues and earnings per share, which serves to minimize the impact of excessive risk-taking by any individual member of management.

## **Evaluation Program of the Board of Directors and its Committees**

In order to maintain the Company's governance standards, the Board of Directors, and each committee thereof, is required to undertake annually a formal self-evaluation process. As part of this process, the members of the Board of Directors and each committee thereof evaluate a number of competencies, including, but not limited to, its structure, roles, processes, composition, development, dynamics, effectiveness and involvement.

## **Meetings of Independent Directors**

The independent Directors of the Company meet in executive sessions outside the presence of management. The presiding Director for these meetings is Mr. Zemlin. Any interested party or shareholder who wishes to make their concerns known to the independent Directors may avail themselves of the same procedures provided below under the heading "Communication with the Board of Directors". The Company's Audit Committee Complaint Procedure is available on the Company's website at [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com).

## **Communication with the Board of Directors**

Any interested party or shareholder who wishes to communicate with any of the Company's Directors or the Board of Directors as a group, may do so by writing to the Board of Directors, or such individual Director(s) c/o Chief Financial Officer, UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887. The Company recommends that all correspondence be sent via certified U.S. mail, return receipt requested. All correspondence received by the Chief Financial Officer will be forwarded promptly to the appropriate addressee(s).

## **Director Stock Ownership Policy**

The Board of Directors has a stock ownership policy. Under the policy, Directors are expected to own shares of the Company's stock having a value at least equal to four times the annual retainer fees for Directors. The policy provides a four-year phase-in period. The Board of Directors believes that this policy helps to align the interests of the Directors with those of the Company's shareholders.

## Policy Against Pledging and Hedging Company Shares

The Board of Directors has a policy that generally prohibits a non-employee Director from pledging Company shares without the express prior approval of the Compensation Committee. Similarly, the policy also prohibits a non-employee Director from holding Company shares in a margin account or making such shares held in a brokerage account available as collateral for a margin feature. Based on information furnished to the Company by each non-employee Director, no Company shares owned by any non-employee Director are held in a margin account, serve as collateral for any loan or are subject to any pledge obligation.

The Company's insider trading policy prohibits Directors and officers from engaging in transactions of a speculative nature involving the Company's securities. The policy prohibits short sales and other hedging transactions and also generally prohibits transactions involving derivative securities, such as options, calls or puts whose value is derived from the value of the Company's equity securities. The policy also prohibits all of the Company's Directors and officers from pledging Company securities without the consent of the Compensation Committee. In addition, the policy prohibits all of the Company's Directors and officers from margining Company securities.

## Security Ownership of Management, Directors, Director Nominees and Principal Shareholders

The following table sets forth as of November 12, 2021 certain information concerning shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock beneficially owned by (i) each Director and Nominee, (ii) each of the named executive officers of the Company identified below under the heading "Summary Compensation Table" and (iii) all executive officers, Directors and Nominees as a group (including Michael A. Croatti and William M. Ross), in each case based solely on information furnished by such individuals. Except as otherwise specified, the named beneficial owner has sole voting and investment power. The information in the table reflects shares outstanding of the Company's Common Stock and Class B Common Stock on November 12, 2021, restricted stock units which are vested as of, or will vest within 60 days after, November 12, 2021 and stock appreciation rights which are vested as of, or will vest within 60 days after, November 12, 2021 and are exercisable based on the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on November 12, 2021.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percentage of All Outstanding Shares(1)	Percentage of Voting Power(1)
Steven S. Sintros(2)(6)	29,811	*	*
Shane F. O'Connor	—	*	*
Cynthia Croatti(2)(3)	8,000	*	*
David M. Katz(2)	4,000	*	*
David A. DiFillippo(2)(4)	15,136	*	*
Kathleen M. Camilli(2)(5)	5,953	*	*
Phillip L. Cohen(2)(5)	22,773	*	*
Michael Iandoli(2)(5)	7,740	*	*
Thomas S. Postek(2)(5)	40,142	*	*
Raymond C. Zemlin(2)(5)	6,988	*	*
All Directors, Nominees and executive officers as a group(2)(7) (12 persons)	232,873	1.2%	1.9%

\* Less than 1%.

- (1) The percentages have been determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act. As of November 12, 2021, a total of 18,868,917 shares of common stock were outstanding, of which 15,225,908 were shares of Common Stock entitled to one vote per share and 3,643,009 were shares of Class B Common Stock entitled to ten votes per share. Each share of Class B Common Stock is convertible into one share of Common Stock.

- (2) Includes 17,072 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Mr. Sintros, 4,000 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Mr. Katz, 8,000 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Ms. Croatti, 8,000 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Mr. DiFillippo, 8,238 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Mr. Cohen, 7,298 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Mr. Postek, 3,000 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Mr. Iandoli, 4,988 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Mr. Zemlin and 3,000 fully vested stock appreciation rights owned by Ms. Camilli.
- (3) Ms. Croatti owns the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2. The information presented does not include any shares owned by Ms. Croatti's children, as to which shares Ms. Croatti disclaims any beneficial interest. Ms. Croatti is a shareholder and director of each of the general partners of The Queue Limited Partnership and The Red Cat Limited Partnership, which respectively own 672,775 and 1,015,717 shares of Class B Common Stock. The general partners of The Queue Limited Partnership and The Red Cat Limited Partnership own 199 and 3 shares of Class B Common Stock, respectively. Ms. Croatti is trustee and a beneficiary of The Marie Croatti QTIP Trust, which owns 4,374 shares of Class B Common Stock. The information presented for Ms. Croatti does not include any shares owned by The Queue Limited Partnership, The Red Cat Limited Partnership, their respective general partners or The Marie Croatti QTIP Trust. In addition, the information presented for Ms. Croatti does not include any shares beneficially owned by certain other trusts for which Ms. Croatti is a trustee and certain entities for which Ms. Croatti serves as manager and which, in the aggregate, beneficially own 68,534 shares of Common Stock and 162,361 shares of Class B Common Stock.
- (4) Mr. DiFillippo owns 7,136 shares of Common Stock and the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2.
- (5) Mr. Postek owns 32,844 shares of Common Stock and the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2. Mr. Cohen owns 14,535 shares of Common Stock and the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2. Mr. Iandoli owns 4,740 shares of Common Stock and the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2. Ms. Camilli owns 2,953 shares of Common Stock and the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2. Mr. Zemlin owns 2,000 shares of Common Stock with respect to which he has shared voting and investment power with his spouse and the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2.
- (6) Mr. Sintros owns 7,315 shares of Common Stock, the fully vested stock appreciation rights listed in footnote 2, 1,426 stock appreciation rights which will vest on November 19, 2021, 1,508 stock appreciation rights which will vest on November 27, 2021, 1,030 stock appreciation rights which will vest on December 14, 2021, 855 time-based restricted stock units which will vest on November 27, 2021 and 605 time-based restricted stock units which will vest on December 14, 2021.
- (7) Includes the Directors, Nominees and named executive officers set forth in the table above and the two other executive officers of the Company, Messrs. Croatti and Ross.

To the knowledge of the Company, the following are the only beneficial owners of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock or Class B Common Stock of the Company as of November 12, 2021. All information presented is based solely on information provided by each beneficial owner.

<b>Name of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership</b>	<b>Percentage of All Outstanding Shares(1)</b>	<b>Percentage of Voting Power(1)</b>
BlackRock, Inc.(2)	2,312,987	12.3%	4.5%
Vanguard Group Inc.(3)	1,526,906	8.1	3.0
The Ronald D. Croatti Trust—1993(4)	1,035,734	5.5	20.1
The Red Cat Limited Partnership(5)	1,015,720	5.4	19.7
The London Company(6)	783,833	4.2	1.5
The Queue Limited Partnership(7)	672,974	3.6	13.0
Cecelia Levenstein(8)	542,907	2.9	8.8

- (1) The percentages have been determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act. As of November 12, 2021, a total of 18,868,917 shares of common stock were outstanding, of which 15,225,908 were shares of Common Stock entitled to one vote per share and 3,643,009 were shares of Class B Common Stock entitled to ten votes per share. Each share of Class B Common Stock is convertible into one share of Common Stock.
- (2) BlackRock Inc. beneficially owns shares of Common Stock representing 15.2% of such class. The address of BlackRock Inc. is 55 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10055. The Company has relied solely upon information contained in a Schedule 13G/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by BlackRock Inc. on January 26, 2021.
- (3) Vanguard Group Inc. beneficially owns shares of Common Stock representing 10.0% of such class. The address of Vanguard Group Inc. is 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355. The Company has relied solely upon information contained in a Schedule 13G/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Vanguard Group Inc. on February 10, 2021.
- (4) The Ronald D. Croatti Trust—1993 owns 1,035,734 shares of Class B Common Stock representing 28.4% of such class. Carol Croatti and Matthew Croatti are the trustees of The Ronald D. Croatti Trust—1993. The address of The Ronald D. Croatti Trust—1993 is c/o UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.
- (5) The Red Cat Limited Partnership owns 1,015,717 shares of Class B Common Stock representing 27.9% of such class. The general partner of The Red Cat Limited Partnership is Red Cat Management Associates, Inc., which has sole voting and dispositive power over the shares owned by The Red Cat Limited Partnership. The Ronald D. Croatti Trust—1993 and Cynthia Croatti are the sole shareholders and Carol Croatti and Cynthia Croatti are the directors of Red Cat Management Associates, Inc. In addition, Red Cat Management Associates, Inc. owns 3 shares of Class B Common Stock directly, which are included in the table above. The address of The Red Cat Limited Partnership is c/o UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.
- (6) The London Company beneficially owns 783,833 shares of Common Stock representing 5.1% of such class. The address of The London Company is 1800 Bayberry Court, Suite 301, Richmond, Virginia 23226. The Company has relied solely upon information contained in a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by The London Company on May 7, 2021.
- (7) The Queue Limited Partnership owns 672,775 shares of Class B Common Stock representing 18.5% of such class. The general partner of The Queue Limited Partnership is Queue Management Associates, Inc., which has sole voting and dispositive power over the shares owned by The Queue Limited Partnership. The Ronald D. Croatti Trust—1993, Cynthia Croatti and Cecelia Levenstein are the sole shareholders and Carol Croatti, Cynthia Croatti and Cecilia Levenstein are the directors of Queue Management Associates, Inc. In addition, Queue Management Associates, Inc. owns 199 shares of Class B Common Stock directly, which are included in the table above. All decisions by the directors of Queue Management Associates, Inc. must be made unanimously. The address of The Queue Limited Partnership is c/o UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.
- (8) Ms. Levenstein owns 444,349 shares of Class B Common Stock representing 12.2% of such class, and 98,558 shares of Common Stock. Ms. Levenstein is a shareholder and director of the general partner of The Queue Limited Partnership, which owns 672,775 shares of Class B Common Stock. The general partner of The Queue Limited Partnership owns 199 shares of Class B Common Stock directly. The information presented for Ms. Levenstein does not include any shares owned by The Queue Limited Partnership or Queue Management Associates, Inc. In addition, the information presented for Ms. Levenstein does not include any shares beneficially owned by certain other trusts for which Ms. Levenstein is a trustee and, which, in the aggregate, beneficially own 106,080 shares of Class B Common Stock. The address of Ms. Levenstein is c/o UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.

## **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

The Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors, in collaboration with management, develops and implements our compensation policies. The Compensation Committee also reviews and establishes the compensation paid to our executive officers. We believe we provide an appropriate and competitive total compensation package to our executive officers through a combination of base salary, annual cash incentive bonuses, long-term equity incentive compensation and broad-based benefits



programs. We place significant emphasis on pay for performance-based incentive compensation, which is designed to reward our executive officers based on the achievement of predetermined corporate goals.

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes our compensation objectives, policies and practices with respect to our President and Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and our other three most highly-compensated executive officers as determined in accordance with applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules (collectively, our “named executive officers”).

Our named executive officers in fiscal 2021 were Steven S. Sintros, our President and Chief Executive Officer, Shane F. O’Connor, our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Cynthia Croatti, our Executive Vice President and Treasurer, David M. Katz, our Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing, and David A. DiFillippo, our Executive Vice President, Operations.

### ***Objectives of Our Executive Compensation Programs***

Our compensation programs for our named executive officers are designed to achieve the following objectives:

- attract and retain talented and experienced executives in the highly competitive uniform rental and sales industry;
- motivate and reward executives whose knowledge, skills and performance are critical to our success and the furtherance of our long-term strategic plan;
- align the interests of our executives and shareholders by motivating executives to increase shareholder value and by rewarding executives when shareholder value increases;
- provide a competitive compensation package which is weighted heavily towards pay for performance, and in which a significant portion of total compensation is determined by corporate and individual performance and the creation of shareholder value;
- ensure fairness among our executive officers by recognizing the contributions each executive makes to our success; and
- foster a shared commitment among executives by coordinating their corporate and individual goals.

### ***Our Executive Compensation Programs and Plans***

We designed our executive compensation programs and plans to achieve the objectives described above. Our executive compensation primarily consists of base salary, annual cash incentive bonuses under an executive bonus plan and CEO Cash Incentive Bonus Plan, or CEO Bonus Plan, that are tied to the achievement of predetermined corporate performance goals, long-term equity incentive compensation and broad-based benefits programs.

Within the context of the overall objectives of our compensation programs, we typically determine the specific amounts of compensation to be paid to each of our named executive officers based on a number of factors:

- the performance of our named executive officers in prior years;
- the roles and responsibilities of our named executive officers;
- the individual experience and skills of our named executive officers;
- for each named executive officer, other than our Chief Executive Officer, the evaluations and recommendations of our Chief Executive Officer; and
- the amounts of compensation being paid to our other named executive officers.

In addition, we rely on our understanding of the amount of compensation paid by our principal competitors and similarly situated companies to their executives with comparable roles and responsibilities as a market check for the compensation decisions we make.

Each of the primary elements of our executive compensation is discussed in detail below, including a description of how each element fits into the overall compensation of our named executive officers. We also discuss below the amounts of compensation paid to our named executive officers for fiscal 2021 under each of these elements. In the descriptions below, we highlight particular compensation objectives that we have used to design specific elements of our executive compensation program to address. However, it should be noted that we have designed our compensation programs to complement each other and collectively serve all of our executive compensation objectives described above. Accordingly, whether or not specifically mentioned below, we believe that each element of our executive compensation program serves each of our objectives to a greater or lesser extent.

With respect to our CEO compensation program, we initially designed the structure in fiscal 2017 with benchmarking data and input from Pearl Meyer & Partners, LLC, a third party compensation consulting firm. At that time, we considered and confirmed Pearl Meyer's independence.

#### *Base Salary - Named Executive Officers*

We pay our named executive officers a base salary, which we review and determine annually. We believe that a competitive base level of compensation is a necessary element of any compensation program that is designed to attract and retain talented and experienced executive officers who will facilitate the accomplishment of our long-term strategic plan and increase shareholder value. We also believe that attractive base salaries can motivate and reward executive officers for their overall performance. The base salaries paid to our named executive officers reflect the general performance of our named executive officers during prior years, their roles and responsibilities, and their experience, skills and contributions.

The base salaries set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table" below reflect the base salaries earned by our named executive officers in fiscal 2021. We determined the base salaries of our named executive officers other than Mr. Sintros on a calendar year basis. The base salary for Mr. Sintros was determined on a fiscal year basis.

For fiscal 2021, Mr. Sintros recommended that we reduce his annual base salary from \$750,000 to \$675,000 in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business. Although we determined that Mr. Sintros' performance in fiscal 2020 would not have led to a reduction in his annual base salary for fiscal 2021, we agreed with Mr. Sintros' recommendation and reduced Mr. Sintros' annual base salary for fiscal 2021 from \$750,000 to \$675,000.

For calendar 2021, consistent with the recommendation of Mr. Sintros, we set the annual base salaries for our other named executive officers at the same amounts as in calendar 2020. As a result of such determination, Mr. O'Connor's annual base salary was set at \$367,562, Ms. Croatti's annual base salary was set at \$523,229, Mr. Katz's annual base salary was set at \$429,049 and Mr. DiFillippo's annual base salary was set at \$394,244. We made such determinations in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business and Mr. Sintros' decision not to raise salaries for bonus eligible employees. We determined, however, that our named executive officers performed well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *Annual Cash Incentive Bonuses - Named Executive Officers*

Consistent with our emphasis on performance incentive compensation programs, our named executive officers are eligible to receive annual cash incentive bonuses primarily based on their performance as measured against predetermined corporate financial goals that we establish. The primary objective of our annual cash incentive bonuses is to motivate our named executive officers and to reward them for meeting our short-term objectives using a performance-based compensation program with objectively determinable goals. Our annual cash incentive bonuses also align the interests of our named executive officers and our shareholders by providing our executives with incentives to increase shareholder value and a reward for doing so.

Our named executive officers other than Mr. Sintros participate in our executive bonus plan, and Mr. Sintros participates in our CEO Bonus Plan. Our executive bonus plan and our CEO Bonus Plan are described below. Prior to fiscal 2021, Mr. Sintros also participated in our executive bonus plan. For fiscal 2021, we determined that Mr. Sintros would participate only in our CEO Bonus Plan, and we changed the performance metrics under the CEO Bonus Plan to be the same as those metrics under our executive bonus plan, which are based on revenues, earnings per share and customer retention. We made such changes in order to align the performance bonus criteria for all of our named executive officers.

#### *Executive Bonus Plan*

Under our executive bonus plan, our named executive officers have the potential to earn annual cash incentive bonuses at a level that represents a meaningful portion of our named executive officers' cash compensation. For fiscal 2021, our executive bonus plan provided for potential annual cash incentive bonuses of up to 50% of the named executive officer's salary



earned for the fiscal year. Potential bonus payments under our executive bonus plan are linked to objective criteria set forth in the plan. Our named executive officers can earn annual cash incentive bonuses based on predetermined criteria tied to corporate revenues, earnings per share and customer retention.

At the beginning of fiscal 2021, we set five potential achievement levels with respect to corporate revenues consisting of a threshold achievement level, 25% achievement level, target achievement level, 75% achievement level and maximum achievement level. If actual corporate revenues met a specified achievement level, each executive would earn a corresponding specified percentage of the executive's salary earned during fiscal 2021. Such specified percentages of an executive's base salary for fiscal 2021 were 12.5% at the threshold achievement level, 15.0% at the 25% achievement level, 17.5% at the target achievement level, 20.0% at the 75% achievement level and 22.5% at the maximum achievement level. The executive bonus plan for fiscal 2021 included potential adjustments to actual revenues to take into account the impact of any deterioration of the Canadian dollar to U.S. dollar exchange rate from 0.75 U.S. dollars to 1.0 Canadian dollar.

At the beginning of fiscal 2021, we also set five potential achievement levels with respect to consolidated diluted earnings per share ("EPS") consisting of a threshold achievement level, 25% achievement level, target achievement level, 75% achievement level and maximum achievement level. If actual EPS met a specified achievement level, each executive would earn a corresponding specified percentage of the executive's salary earned during fiscal 2021. Such specified percentages of an executive's base salary for fiscal 2021 were 12.5% at the threshold achievement level, 15.0% at the 25% achievement level, 17.5% at the target achievement level, 20.0% at the 75% achievement level and 22.5% at the maximum achievement level. The executive bonus plan for fiscal 2021 included potential adjustments to actual EPS to take into account Company costs and expenses in excess of \$1.0 million associated with claims, litigation, regulatory or environmental matters, certain expensed costs in excess of expected amounts with respect to our initiative to update our customer relationship management (CRM) systems, asset impairment, any foreign exchange gain or loss recognized in the fiscal year, changes in generally accepted accounting principles impacting operating income, income tax expenses at the forecasted rate, losses, costs or expenses arising from natural catastrophes or similar events and the net effect of changes in our weighted average shares outstanding.

At the beginning of fiscal 2021, we also set five potential achievement levels with respect to customer retention consisting of a threshold achievement level, 25% achievement level, target achievement level, 75% achievement level and maximum achievement level. If actual customer retention met a specified achievement level, each executive would earn a corresponding specified percentage of the executive's salary earned during fiscal 2021. Such specified percentages of the executive's base salary for fiscal 2021 were 0% at the threshold achievement level, 1.3% at the 25% achievement level, 2.5% at the target achievement level, 3.8% at the 75% achievement level and 5.0% at the maximum achievement level.

In establishing our bonus opportunities under the executive bonus plan, we consider the incentives that we want to provide to our executives. For fiscal 2021, we established the following corporate financial goals under our executive bonus plan. With respect to revenues, the achievement levels were set at a threshold level of \$1.775 billion, a 25% level of \$1.790 billion, a target level of \$1.805 billion, a 75% level of \$1.820 billion and a maximum level of \$1.835 billion. Our actual revenues for fiscal 2021 were \$1.826 billion. As a result, based on the percentage achievement level, the named executive officers earned a bonus of 20.0% of the executive's base salary on account of the revenues achievement level for fiscal 2021.

With respect to EPS, the achievement levels were set at a threshold level of \$6.70, a 25% level of \$7.12, a target level of \$7.52, a 75% level of \$7.78 and a maximum level of \$8.01. Our actual EPS for fiscal 2021 was \$7.94 and our adjusted EPS under the executive bonus plan was \$7.84. As a result, based on the percentage achievement level, the named executive officers earned a bonus of 20.0% of the executive's base salary on account of the EPS achievement level for fiscal 2021.

With respect to customer retention levels, each of the named executive officers earned a bonus of 2.5% of his or her base salary based on this criterion in fiscal 2021.

As a result of the achievement levels under our executive bonus plan discussed above, our named executive officers received the following annual cash incentive bonuses for fiscal 2021:

Name	Bonus	% of Base Salary
Shane F. O'Connor	\$ 155,993	42.4%
Cynthia Croatti	\$ 222,058	42.4%
David M. Katz	\$ 182,089	42.4%
David A. DiFillippo	\$ 167,317	42.4%

### *CEO Bonus Plan*

Mr. Sintros is entitled to participate in our CEO Bonus Plan. Under the CEO Bonus Plan for fiscal 2021 and similar to the executive bonus plan described above, Mr. Sintros could earn a bonus for fiscal 2021 based on the achievement of Company-wide performance objectives with respect to corporate revenues, EPS and customer retention. We set five potential achievement levels with respect to each of corporate revenues, EPS and customer retention, which were the same as those in our executive bonus plan for fiscal 2021.

If actual corporate revenues met a specified achievement level, Mr. Sintros would earn a corresponding specified percentage of his salary earned during fiscal 2021. Such specified percentages of Mr. Sintros' base salary for fiscal 2021 were 25.0% at the threshold achievement level, 30.0% at the 25% achievement level, 35.0% at the target achievement level, 40.0% at the 75% achievement level and 45.0% at the maximum achievement level. The CEO Bonus Plan for fiscal 2021 included potential adjustments to actual revenues to take into account the impact of any deterioration of the Canadian dollar to U.S. dollar exchange rate from 0.75 U.S. dollars to 1.0 Canadian dollar.

If actual EPS met a specified achievement level, Mr. Sintros would earn a corresponding specified percentage of his salary earned during fiscal 2021. Such specified percentages of Mr. Sintros' base salary for fiscal 2021 were 25.0% at the threshold achievement level, 30.0% at the 25% achievement level, 35.0% at the target achievement level, 40.0% at the 75% achievement level and 45.0% at the maximum achievement level. The CEO Bonus Plan for fiscal 2021 included potential adjustments to actual EPS to take into account Company costs and expenses in excess of \$1.0 million associated with claims, litigation, regulatory or environmental matters, certain expensed costs in excess of expected amounts with respect to our initiative to update our customer relationship management (CRM) systems, asset impairment, any foreign exchange gain or loss recognized in the fiscal year, changes in generally accepted accounting principles impacting operating income, income tax expenses at the forecasted rate, losses, costs or expenses arising from natural catastrophes or similar events and the net effect of changes in our weighted average shares outstanding.

If actual customer retention met a specified achievement level, Mr. Sintros would earn a corresponding specified percentage of his salary earned during fiscal 2021. Such specified percentages of Mr. Sintros' base salary for fiscal 2021 were 0% at the threshold achievement level, 2.5% at the 25% achievement level, 5.0% at the target achievement level, 7.5% at the 75% achievement level and 10.0% at the maximum achievement level.

As a result of our actual revenues, adjusted EPS and customer retention described above under “—Executive Bonus Plan,” Mr. Sintros earned a bonus under the CEO Bonus Plan for fiscal 2021 of 40.0% of his base salary on account of revenues, 40.0% of his base salary on account of adjusted EPS and 5.0% of his base salary on account of customer retention. The amount of Mr. Sintros' bonus for fiscal 2021 under the CEO Bonus Plan was determined to be \$572,941.

### *CEO MBO Bonus*

For fiscal 2021, we determined that Mr. Sintros would be eligible to receive a cash bonus of up to \$100,000 (approximately 15% of his base salary) based on the achievement of two MBOs. The MBOs for Mr. Sintros in fiscal 2021 were to have at least 10 active plants on our new CRM system prior to the end of fiscal 2021 and to build improved marketing capabilities beginning with the hiring of a vice president level leader to evolve our marketing function. The Committee set the achievement potential for the CRM system-related MBO at \$75,000 and the marketing-related MBO at \$25,000. We determined that Mr. Sintros achieved both MBOs in fiscal 2021 and approved an aggregate cash bonus of \$100,000 be paid to Mr. Sintros on account of such MBOs.

### *Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation—Named Executive Officers*

We grant long-term equity incentive awards to our named executive officers as part of our total compensation package. We use long-term equity incentive awards as part of our emphasis on performance-based incentive compensation. Our long-term equity incentive awards align the interests of our named executive officers and our shareholders by providing our executives with incentives to increase shareholder value and a reward for doing so. We generally grant long-term incentive awards once each year to each of our named executive officers.

We awarded time-based stock-settled stock appreciation rights (“SAR”) and restricted stock units to our named executive officers in fiscal 2021. With respect to SARs, the recipient receives the value (in shares) of the appreciation in the market price of our Common Stock from the grant date to the exercise date. The SARs and restricted stock units, other than the SARs and restricted stock units awarded to Mr. Sintros in fiscal 2021, are subject to a five-year vesting schedule in which the SARs and restricted stock units vest 60% on the third anniversary of the grant date, 20% on the fourth anniversary of the grant

date and 20% on the fifth anniversary of the grant date. The SARs expire ten years after the grant date. The SARs and time-based restricted stock units granted to Mr. Sintros in fiscal 2021 vest in equal annual amounts over a five-year period. We sometimes refer to our SARs herein as “Share-Based Awards.”

In fiscal 2021, we granted the following SARs to the following named executive officers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Securities Underlying SARs</b>	<b>Exercise or Base Price of SAR Awards (\$/Sh)</b>
Steven S. Sintros	7,132	\$ 195.55
Shane F. O’Connor	1,584	\$ 166.94
Cynthia Croatti	1,919	\$ 166.94
David M. Katz	1,584	\$ 166.94
David A. DiFillippo	1,584	\$ 166.94

In fiscal 2021, we granted the following time-based restricted stock units to the following named executive officers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Time-Based Restricted Stock Units</b>
Steven S. Sintros	3,222
Shane F. O’Connor	1,169
Cynthia Croatti	1,416
David M. Katz	1,169
David A. DiFillippo	1,169

In fiscal 2021, we also granted 3,836 performance-based restricted stock units to Mr. Sintros. The number of performance-based restricted stock units to be earned depended on whether and the extent to which the Company achieved certain consolidated revenues and adjusted EPS during fiscal 2021. The performance criteria and achievement levels under the performance-based restricted stock unit award were the same as the revenues and adjusted EPS criteria and achievement levels under the CEO Bonus Plan, which are described above under “CEO Bonus Plan.” The threshold, 25%, target, 75% and maximum numbers of performance-based restricted stock units eligible to be earned were 1,279, 1,918, 2,557, 3,197 and 3,836, respectively. Performance-based restricted stock units that are determined to be earned upon achievement of the performance criteria are fully vested.

Subsequent to fiscal 2021, we determined that 3,197 of such performance-based restricted stock units awarded to Mr. Sintros were earned based on our revenue and adjusted EPS achievement at the 75% level for fiscal 2021 as described above under “CEO Bonus Plan” above.

#### *Broad-Based Benefits Programs and Perquisites*

All full-time employees, including our named executive officers, may participate in our health and welfare benefit programs, including medical, dental and vision care coverage, disability insurance, life insurance and the UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan. In addition, certain of our full-time employees, including our named executive officers, may participate in the UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. In fiscal 2021, our named executive officers also received certain perquisites and personal benefits set forth in the “Summary Compensation Table” below. We provide these benefits to retain and attract talented executives with the skills and experience to further our long-term strategic plan.

#### *Executive Employment Plan*

On October 26, 2020, our Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors adopted an Executive Employment Plan under which our named executive officers are eligible to participate, subject to certain requirements. The Executive Employment Plan provides for certain cash payments upon a named executive officer’s termination under certain specified circumstances. The Executive Employment Plan is intended, among other things, to ensure the ongoing commitment and continued attention and dedication of our named executive officers to their positions and to the best interest of our shareholders in the event of a change in control. The Executive Employment Plan serves as a retention component of our executive compensation program and is also designed to attract talented executives to our company. In connection with our design of the Executive Employment Plan, we engaged Meridian Compensation Partners, a third party

compensation consultant, to advise on the structure of the plan. Prior to engaging Meridian Compensation Partners, we assessed the independence of the firm.

See “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control” below for additional information regarding our Executive Employment Plan.

#### *Our Executive Compensation Process*

The Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors is primarily responsible for establishing the compensation paid to our named executive officers. The Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Compensation Committee is “independent” as that term is defined under the applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange. In determining executive compensation, our Compensation Committee annually reviews the performance of our named executive officers with our Chief Executive Officer, and our Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to our Compensation Committee with respect to the appropriate base salary, annual cash incentive bonus payments and grants of long-term equity incentive awards for each of our named executive officers. Our Compensation Committee annually reviews the performance of our Chief Executive Officer and establishes the appropriate base salary, annual cash incentive bonus payments and grants of long-term equity incentive awards to be paid to him. In general, with exception of the initial design of our CEO compensation program in fiscal 2017, we do not engage in a formal benchmarking process in setting the compensation for our executives.

#### **Compensation Committee Report**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this Proxy Statement with management. Based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement and the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 28, 2021 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### **Compensation Committee**

Michael Iandoli (Chair)  
Kathleen M. Camilli  
Phillip L. Cohen  
Thomas S. Postek  
Raymond C. Zemlin

## Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth summary information concerning the annual compensation for the years ended August 28, 2021, August 31, 2020 and August 25, 2019, respectively, awarded to, earned by or paid to our President and Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and our other three most highly-compensated executive officers (collectively, for purposes of the tables set forth in this Proxy Statement, our “named executive officers”):

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary		Share-Based Awards (2)	Stock Awards (3)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (4)	All Other Compensation	Total
		(1)	Bonus						
<i>Steven S. Sintros</i>	2021	\$675,000	\$100,000	\$350,039	\$1,380,192	\$572,941	\$169,979	\$28,184 (5)	\$3,276,334
President and	2020	\$750,000	\$227,500	\$350,015	\$700,114	\$97,500	\$429,696	\$32,603	\$2,587,428
Chief Executive Officer	2019	\$611,321	\$96,000	\$312,525	\$1,025,090	\$438,000	\$207,254	\$31,952	\$2,722,142
<i>Shane F. O'Connor</i>	2021	\$367,562	\$—	\$65,023	\$195,153	\$155,993	\$113,095	\$26,682 (6)	\$923,508
Executive Vice	2020	\$362,940	\$61,700	\$65,008	\$195,002	\$10,888	\$158,872	\$30,901	\$885,311
President and Chief Financial Officer	2019	\$360,996	\$—	\$62,515	\$187,580	\$116,886	\$133,741	\$33,203	\$894,921
<i>Cynthia Croatti</i>	2021	\$523,229	\$—	\$78,775	\$236,387	\$222,058	\$113,946	\$28,184 (7)	\$1,202,579
Executive Vice	2020	\$516,650	\$87,831	\$78,793	\$236,256	\$15,500	\$295,967	\$32,603	\$1,263,600
President	2019	\$516,128	\$—	\$78,759	\$236,341	\$167,130	\$532,128	\$31,952	\$1,562,438
<i>David M. Katz</i>	2021	\$429,049	\$—	\$65,023	\$195,153	\$182,089	\$70,992	\$28,184 (8)	\$970,490
Executive Vice	2020	\$423,654	\$72,021	\$65,008	\$195,002	\$12,710	\$130,026	\$32,603	\$931,024
President, Sales and Marketing	2019	\$422,607	\$—	\$62,515	\$187,580	\$136,842	\$140,111	\$31,952	\$981,607
<i>David A. DiFillippo</i>	2021	\$394,244	\$—	\$65,023	\$195,153	\$167,317	\$69,992	\$28,184 (9)	\$919,913
Executive Vice	2020	\$389,287	\$66,178	\$65,008	\$195,002	\$11,679	\$195,434	\$32,822	\$955,410
President, Operations	2019	\$388,894	\$—	\$62,515	\$187,580	\$125,929	\$315,616	\$31,955	\$1,112,489

- (1) Fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020 consisted of 52 weeks while fiscal 2019 consisted of 53 weeks. The base salary amounts for fiscal 2019 reflect the impact of the additional week. The salary amounts in the table include the impact of the timing of our bi-weekly pay periods.
- (2) The amounts shown represent the aggregate grant date fair value related to the grant of stock appreciation rights to our named executive officers in fiscal 2021, 2020 and 2019, respectively, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (excluding the effect of any estimate of future forfeitures). Additional information concerning our financial reporting of stock appreciation rights is presented in Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2021, Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 29, 2020 and in Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2019. See the “Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End – 2021” table below for additional details regarding the stock appreciation rights that were granted to our named executive officers in fiscal 2021, 2020 and 2019.
- (3) The amounts shown represent the aggregate grant date fair value related to the grant of restricted stock units (including 3,836 performance-based restricted stock units granted to Mr. Sintros, which may be earned based on the Company’s achievement of certain performance criteria) to our named executive officers in fiscal 2021, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (excluding the effect of any estimate of future forfeitures). In October 2021, the Compensation Committee determined that 3,197 of the performance-based restricted stock units granted to Mr. Sintros were earned and vested based on the Company’s revenues and adjusted diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2021. Additional information concerning our financial reporting of restricted stock units is presented in Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2021, in Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 29, 2020 and in Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2019. See the “Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End – 2021” table below for additional details regarding the restricted stock units that were granted to our named executive officers in fiscal 2021.

- (4) Amounts reported in this column for fiscal 2021 represent the present value of the accumulated benefit obligation as of August 28, 2021 minus the present value of the accumulated benefit obligation as of August 29, 2020 under the UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, as amended (“SERP”). Amounts reported in this column for fiscal 2020 represent the present value of the accumulated benefit obligation as of August 29, 2020 minus the present value of the accumulated benefit obligation as of August 31, 2019 under our SERP. Amounts reported in this column for fiscal 2019 represent the present value of the accumulated benefit obligation as of August 31, 2019 minus the present value of the accumulated benefit obligation as of August 25, 2018 under our SERP. Our obligation has been estimated assuming benefits commence at normal social security retirement age and using FASB ASC Topic 715 assumptions for mortality, assumed payment form and discount rates in effect at the measurement dates. Since the Company does not credit interest at above-market rates, no interest amounts are included in these totals. See the “Pension Benefits Table – Fiscal 2021” below for additional details about the accumulated benefits of each named executive officer under our SERP with respect to fiscal 2021. See the “Pension Benefits Table – Fiscal 2020” in our Proxy Statement for the 2021 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 3, 2020 for additional details about the accumulated benefits of each named executive officer under our SERP with respect to fiscal 2020. See the “Pension Benefits Table – Fiscal 2019” in our Proxy Statement for the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 5, 2019 for additional details about the accumulated benefits of each named executive officer under our SERP with respect to fiscal 2019.
- (5) Includes car allowance (\$12,450), 401(k) contributions (\$11,400) and profit sharing plan contribution (\$4,334). The components of “All Other Compensation” for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019 for Mr. Sintros were reported in our 2020 and 2019 proxy statements, respectively.
- (6) Includes car allowance (\$12,450), 401(k) contributions (\$9,898) and profit sharing plan contribution (\$4,334). The components of “All Other Compensation” for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019 for Mr. O’Connor were reported in our 2020 and 2019 proxy statements, respectively.
- (7) Includes car allowance (\$12,450), 401(k) contributions (\$11,400) and profit sharing plan contribution (\$4,334). The components of “All Other Compensation” for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019 for Ms. Croatti were reported in our 2020 and 2019 proxy statements, respectively.
- (8) Includes car allowance (\$12,450), 401(k) contributions (\$11,400) and profit sharing plan contribution (\$4,334). The components of “All Other Compensation” for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019 for Mr. Katz were reported in our 2020 and 2019 proxy statements, respectively.
- (9) Includes car allowance (\$12,450), 401(k) contributions (\$11,400) and profit sharing plan contribution (\$4,334). The components of “All Other Compensation” for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019 for Mr. DiFillippo were reported in our 2020 and 2019 proxy statements, respectively.



## Grants of Plan-Based Awards – Fiscal 2021

The following table contains information related to non-equity incentive plan awards made to our Chief Executive Officer under our CEO Bonus Plan, non-equity incentive plan awards made to our other named executive officers under our executive bonus plan and restricted stock unit awards and Share-Based Awards granted to our named executive officers under our Amended and Restated 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan during fiscal 2021:

Name	Grant Date	Approval Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards			Estimated Possible Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Awards	All Other Share-Based Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Awards	Exercise or Base Price of Share-Based Awards (\$/Sh)(1)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Share-Based Awards(\$)(2)
			Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)				
Steven S. Sintros	11/19/2020	11/19/2020								7,132 (3)	195.55	350,039
President and Chief Executive Officer	11/19/2020	11/19/2020							3,222 (4)		—	630,062
	11/12/2020	11/12/2020	303,750 (5)	506,250 (5)	675,000 (5)							
	11/19/2020	11/19/2020				1,279 (6)	2,557 (6)	3,836 (6)			—	750,130
Shane F. O'Connor	10/26/2020	10/26/2020								1,584 (7)	166.94	65,023
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	10/26/2020	10/26/2020							1,169 (8)		—	195,153
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020	91,891 (5)	137,836 (5)	183,781 (5)							
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020										
Cynthia Croatti	10/26/2020	10/26/2020								1,919 (7)	166.94	78,775
Executive Vice President	10/26/2020	10/26/2020							1,416 (8)		—	236,387
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020	130,807 (5)	196,211 (5)	261,615 (5)							
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020										
David M. Katz	10/26/2020	10/26/2020								1,584 (7)	166.94	65,023
Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing	10/26/2020	10/26/2020							1,169 (8)		—	195,153
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020	107,262 (5)	160,893 (5)	214,525 (5)							
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020										
David A. DiFillippo	10/26/2020	10/26/2020								1,584 (7)	166.94	65,023
Executive Vice President, Operations	10/26/2020	10/26/2020							1,169 (8)		—	195,153
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020	98,561 (5)	147,842 (5)	197,122 (5)							
	11/20/2020	11/20/2020										

- (1) Amounts represent the fair market value of our Common Stock on the date of the grant. Fair market value is determined using the closing price of our Common Stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on the date of the grant.
- (2) Amounts represent the grant date fair value of the stock appreciation rights and restricted stock units granted during fiscal 2021. These amounts were calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (excluding the effect of any estimate of future forfeitures).
- (3) Amount represents the number of stock-settled stock appreciation rights granted to Mr. Sintros during fiscal 2021. This stock appreciation right becomes vested and exercisable 20% per year on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on the first anniversary of the grant date. This grant expires ten years from the date of grant.
- (4) Amount represents restricted stock units granted to Mr. Sintros during fiscal 2021. Such restricted stock units vest 20% per year on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on the first anniversary of the grant date.
- (5) Represents threshold, target and maximum possible payouts under the CEO Bonus Plan or executive bonus plan, as applicable, for fiscal 2021. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Annual Cash Incentive Bonuses – Named Executive Officers – CEO Bonus Plan” and “Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Annual Cash Incentive Bonuses – Named Executive Officers – Executive Bonus Plan” for additional information regarding the awards under the CEO Bonus Plan and the executive bonus plan for fiscal 2021.



- (6) Represents the grant of 3,836 performance-based restricted stock units to Mr. Sintros for fiscal 2021. The actual number of restricted stock units to be earned was based on the achievement of certain Company performance criteria. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation – Named Executive Officers” for additional information regarding the performance-based restricted stock units granted to Mr. Sintros in fiscal 2021. After the end of the performance period, the Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Sintros earned 3,197 of such performance-based restricted stock units.
- (7) Amounts represent the number of stock-settled stock appreciation rights granted to certain named executive officers during fiscal 2021. These stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year vesting schedule in which the stock-settled stock appreciation rights vest 60% on the third anniversary of the grant date, 20% on the fourth anniversary of the grant date and 20% on the fifth anniversary of the grant date. Each of these grants expires ten years from the date of grant.
- (8) Amounts represent restricted stock units granted to certain named executive officers during fiscal 2021. These restricted stock units are subject to a five-year vesting schedule in which the restricted stock units vest 60% on the third anniversary of the grant date, 20% on the fourth anniversary of the grant date and 20% on the fifth anniversary of the grant date.

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End – 2021

The following table sets forth information concerning the outstanding restricted stock units and unexercised Share-Based Awards, which consist of stock appreciation rights, held as of August 28, 2021 by our named executive officers:

Name	Share-Based Awards				Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Share-Based Awards Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Share-Based Awards Unexercisable	Share-Based Awards Exercise Price	Share-Based Awards Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Units That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Units That Have Not Vested
<i>Steven S. Sintros</i>	4,000(2)	—	\$ 104.67	10/26/2025	—	—	—	—
President and Chief Executive Officer	—	4,000(3)	\$ 119.00	10/24/2026	—	—	—	—
	3,092(4)	2,060(4)	\$ 165.40	12/14/2027	—	—	—	—
	3,015(5)	4,523(5)	\$ 146.17	11/27/2028	—	—	—	—
	1,482(6)	5,932(6)	\$ 201.24	10/29/2029	—	—	—	—
		7,132(7)	\$ 195.55	11/19/2030	—	—	—	—
					—	—	3,836(8)	\$877,792(8)
					1,210(9)	\$276,884(1)	—	—
					2,566(10)	\$587,178(1)	—	—
					2,784(11)	\$637,063(1)	—	—
					3,222(12)	\$737,290(1)	—	—
<i>Shane F. O'Connor</i>	—	1,137(13)	\$ 167.80	1/2/2028	—	—	—	—
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	—	1,297(14)	\$ 152.38	10/22/2028	—	—	—	—
	—	1,377(15)	\$ 201.24	10/29/2029	—	—	—	—
	—	1,584(16)	\$ 166.94	10/26/2030	—	—	—	—
					1,051(17)	\$240,500(1)	—	—
					1,231(18)	\$281,690(1)	—	—
					969(19)	\$221,736(1)	—	—
					1,169(20)	\$267,502(1)	—	—
<i>Cynthia Croatti</i>	2,000(2)	—	\$ 104.67	10/26/2025	—	—	—	—
Executive Vice President	—	6,000(3)	\$ 119.00	10/24/2026	—	—	—	—
	—	1,574(21)	\$ 156.05	10/23/2027	—	—	—	—
	—	1,634(14)	\$ 152.38	10/22/2028	—	—	—	—
	—	1,669(15)	\$ 201.24	10/29/2029	—	—	—	—
	—	1,919(16)	\$ 166.94	10/26/2030	—	—	—	—
					1,332(22)	\$304,802(1)	—	—
					1,551(18)	\$354,915(1)	—	—
					1,174(19)	\$268,646(1)	—	—
					1,416(20)	\$324,023(1)	—	—
<i>David M. Katz</i>	—	4,000(3)	\$ 119.00	10/24/2026	—	—	—	—
Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing	—	1,233(21)	\$ 156.05	10/23/2027	—	—	—	—
	—	1,297(14)	\$ 152.38	10/22/2028	—	—	—	—
	—	1,377(15)	\$ 201.24	10/29/2029	—	—	—	—
	—	1,584(16)	\$ 166.94	10/26/2030	—	—	—	—
					1,044(22)	\$238,899(1)	—	—
					1,231(18)	\$281,690(1)	—	—
					969(19)	\$221,736(1)	—	—
					1,169(20)	\$267,502(1)	—	—
<i>David A. DiFillippo</i>	4,000(2)	—	\$ 104.67	10/26/2025	—	—	—	—
Executive Vice President, Operations	—	4,000(3)	\$ 119.00	10/24/2026	—	—	—	—
	—	1,233(21)	\$ 156.05	10/23/2027	—	—	—	—
	—	1,297(14)	\$ 152.38	10/22/2028	—	—	—	—
	—	1,377(15)	\$ 201.24	10/29/2029	—	—	—	—
	—	1,584(16)	\$ 166.94	10/26/2030	—	—	—	—
					1,044(22)	\$238,899(1)	—	—
					1,231(18)	\$281,690(1)	—	—
					969(19)	\$221,736(1)	—	—
					1,169(20)	\$267,502(1)	—	—

(1) The amount shown is based on the closing price of the Company's Common Stock of \$228.83 per share on August 27, 2021, the last trading day of fiscal 2021, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange.

- (2) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and became vested and exercisable on October 26, 2020.
- (3) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and become vested and exercisable on October 24, 2021.
- (4) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting having occurred on December 14, 2018.
- (5) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting having occurred on November 27, 2019.
- (6) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting having occurred on October 29, 2020.
- (7) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on November 19, 2021.
- (8) Represents 3,836 restricted stock units that, as of August 28, 2021, were subject to the satisfaction of performance criteria as more fully described under the heading “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” in this Proxy Statement. In October 2021, the Compensation Committee determined that 3,197 of such restricted stock units were earned and vested based on the Company’s revenues and adjusted diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2021.
- (9) These restricted stock units are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting having occurred on December 14, 2018.
- (10) These restricted stock units are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting having occurred on November 27, 2019.
- (11) These restricted stock units are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting having occurred on October 29, 2020.
- (12) These restricted stock units are subject to a 20% per year ratable vesting schedule on each anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on November 19, 2021.
- (13) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and become vested and exercisable on January 2, 2023.
- (14) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and become vested and exercisable on October 22, 2023.
- (15) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year vesting schedule in which the stock-settled stock appreciation rights vest 60% on the third anniversary of the grant date, 20% on the fourth anniversary of the grant date and 20% on the fifth anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on October 29, 2022.
- (16) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year vesting schedule in which the stock-settled stock appreciation rights vest 60% on the third anniversary of the grant date, 20% on the fourth anniversary of the grant date and 20% on the fifth anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on October 26, 2023.
- (17) These restricted stock units are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and become vested and exercisable on January 2, 2023.
- (18) These restricted stock units are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and become vested and exercisable on October 22, 2023.
- (19) These restricted stock units are subject to a five-year vesting schedule in which the restricted stock units vest 60% on the third anniversary of the grant date, 20% on the fourth anniversary of the grant date and 20% on the fifth anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on October 29, 2022.

(20) These restricted stock units are subject to a five-year vesting schedule in which the restricted stock units vest 60% on the third anniversary of the grant date, 20% on the fourth anniversary of the grant date and 20% on the fifth anniversary of the grant date with the first vesting occurring on October 26, 2023.

(21) These stock-settled stock appreciation rights are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and become vested and exercisable on October 23, 2022.

(22) These restricted stock units are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule and become vested and exercisable on December 20, 2022.

Upon an executive's retirement on or after the first day of the month in which the executive may retire under the Social Security Act with no reduction in the executive's social security benefits, all unvested SAR and RSU awards granted to the executive vest in full. Ms. Croatti has reached such age, and her unvested SAR and RSU awards would vest in full in the event of her retirement.

### Option Exercises and Stock Vested Table – Fiscal 2021

The following table sets forth the number of shares of Common Stock acquired or that vested and the aggregate dollar value realized as a result of stock-settled SAR exercises and the vesting of restricted stock units during fiscal 2021 with respect to our named executive officers:

Name	Share-Based Awards			Stock Awards		
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise(1)		Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting(2)	
<i>Steven S. Sintros</i>	2,666	\$ 360,710	(3)	605	(6) \$	122,470
President and Chief Executive Officer	2,667	\$ 311,292	(4)	504	(7) \$	87,429
	2,667	\$ 312,572	(5)	622	(8) \$	103,837
				695	(9) \$	115,926
				855	(10) \$	164,314
<i>Shane F. O'Connor</i>	—	\$ —		—		—
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer						
<i>Cynthia Croatti</i>	4,000	\$ 350,040	(11)	—		—
Executive Vice President	4,000	\$ 320,695	(12)	—		—
	4,000	\$ 233,800	(13)	—		—
<i>David M. Katz</i>	1,333	\$ 183,447	(14)	—		—
Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing	1,333	\$ 158,680	(15)	—		—
	1,334	\$ 159,440	(16)	—		—
<i>David A. DiFillippo</i>	2,666	\$ 360,710	(3)	—		—
Executive Vice President, Operations	2,667	\$ 311,292	(4)	—		—
	2,667	\$ 312,572	(5)	—		—

(1) Value realized on exercise is calculated as the market value of our Common Stock at the time of exercise of the stock appreciation right less the exercise price paid, multiplied by the number of shares underlying the stock option exercised.

(2) Value realized upon vesting is calculated as the market value of our Common Stock at the time of vesting, multiplied by the number of shares that vested.

(3) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$135.30 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$242.29 less the exercise price of \$106.99), multiplied by 2,666 shares acquired upon exercise.

(4) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$116.72 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$223.71 less the exercise price of \$106.99), multiplied by 2,667 shares acquired upon exercise.

- (5) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$117.20 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$224.19 less the exercise price of \$106.99), multiplied by 2,667 shares acquired upon exercise.
- (6) Value realized upon vesting is as follows: \$202.43 (the market value at the time of vesting) multiplied by 605 shares that vested.
- (7) Value realized upon vesting is as follows: \$173.47 (the market value at the time of vesting) multiplied by 504 shares that vested.
- (8) Value realized upon vesting is as follows: \$166.94 (the market value at the time of vesting) multiplied by 622 shares that vested.
- (9) Value realized upon vesting is as follows: \$166.80 (the market value at the time of vesting) multiplied by 695 shares that vested.
- (10) Value realized upon vesting is as follows: \$192.18 (the market value at the time of vesting) multiplied by 855 shares that vested.
- (11) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$87.51 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$192.18 less the exercise price of \$104.67), multiplied by 4,000 shares acquired upon exercise.
- (12) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$80.17 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$187.16 less the exercise price of \$106.99), multiplied by 4,000 shares acquired upon exercise.
- (13) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$58.45 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$165.44 less the exercise price of \$106.99), multiplied by 4,000 shares acquired upon exercise.
- (14) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$137.62 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$242.29 less the exercise price of \$104.67), multiplied by 1,333 shares acquired upon exercise.
- (15) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$119.04 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$223.71 less the exercise price of \$104.67), multiplied by 1,333 shares acquired upon exercise.
- (16) Value realized on exercise is as follows: \$119.52 (the market value at the time of exercise of \$224.19 less the exercise price of \$104.67), multiplied by 1,334 shares acquired upon exercise.

## Pension Benefits Table – Fiscal 2021

The following table sets forth the actuarial present value of accumulated benefits under our Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, the number of years of credited service and the dollar amount of payments and benefits paid during fiscal 2021 to our named executive officers as of August 28, 2021:

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years of Credited Service(1)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefits(2)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year
Steven S. Sintros President and Chief Executive Officer	UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	17	\$ 1,317,133	—
Shane F. O'Connor Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	16	\$ 543,755	—
Cynthia Croatti Executive Vice President	UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	30	\$ 2,842,140	—
David M. Katz Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing	UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	13	\$ 684,982	—
David A. DiFillippo Executive Vice President, Operations	UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	30	\$ 1,757,416	—

- (1) As discussed in more detail below under the heading “UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan”, our SERP limits the number of years of credited service to thirty for purposes of determining a participant’s benefits under the plan. The actual years of service of Mr. DiFillippo and Ms. Croatti are 42 and 41, respectively.
- (2) Amounts reported in this column represent the present value of the accumulated benefit obligation as of August 28, 2021. Our obligation has been estimated assuming benefits commence on the individual’s social security retirement date and using FASB ASC Topic 715 assumptions for mortality, assumed payment form and discount rates in effect at the measurement dates.

### UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

Certain of our and our affiliates’ employees, including our named executive officers, are eligible to participate in our SERP. Retirement benefits provided by our SERP are based on a participant’s average annual base earnings, exclusive of bonuses, commissions, fringe benefits and reimbursed expenses, for the last three years of full-time employment prior to the participant’s retirement date (“Final Average Earnings”). Under the SERP, upon the retirement of a participant on their social security retirement date, a participant will receive a plan benefit in an aggregate amount equal to 1.33% of the participant’s Final Average Earnings multiplied by their years of service, limited to 30 years, less 3.33% of the participant’s primary social security benefit multiplied by their years of service, limited to 30 years.

Pension payments under our SERP are made at the intervals then in effect for the payment of base salaries to our executive officers. Upon the death of a participant, the participant's designated beneficiary will be paid retirement benefits for up to 12 years from the participant's date of retirement. Our SERP provides that, upon any change in control of the Company, participants in our SERP will receive a lump sum payment equal to the actuarial equivalent of their plan benefit as of the date of the change in control.

## **Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control**

### *Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan*

As discussed under the heading "UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan" above, upon a change in control of the Company, our named executive officers will receive a lump sum payment under our SERP equal to the actuarial equivalent of their plan benefit as of the date of the change in control. For more information concerning our SERP, including such accumulated benefit for each named executive officer as of August 28, 2021, see the "Pension Benefits Table – Fiscal 2021" and the discussion under the heading "UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan" above.

### *Executive Employment Plan*

On October 26, 2020, our Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors adopted an Executive Employment Plan. Senior Vice Presidents and above (each, a "Covered Executive") are eligible to participate in the Executive Employment Plan, subject to certain requirements. The Executive Employment Plan provides that upon a termination of a Covered Executive's employment (a "Qualified Termination") (1) by us for any reason other than "cause" (as defined in the Executive Employment Plan), death, disability or retirement or (2) by a Covered Executive for "good reason" (as defined in the Executive Employment Plan), the Covered Executive will be entitled to receive certain cash payments determined pursuant to the Executive Employment Plan. The amount of any payments under the Executive Employment Plan in some cases will depend on whether the Qualified Termination is in connection with a "change in control" (as defined in the Executive Employment Plan).

In addition, our Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors approved revised award forms for equity awards to Covered Executives beginning with equity awards in October 2020. The revised award forms provide for accelerated vesting under certain circumstances, including upon a Qualified Termination in connection with a change in control.

Any such payments and benefits under the Executive Employment Plan and the award forms are subject to the Covered Executive's execution of a separation agreement that includes a release of claims in favor of the Company and certain noncompetition and non-solicitation obligations.

Equity awards granted to our Covered Executives prior to October 2020 provide for accelerated vesting solely in connection with a change in control.

The following table sets forth the amounts that would have been paid to our named executive officers under the Executive Employment Plan or their equity awards (i) in the event of a termination with "cause"; (ii) in the event of a termination by us without "cause" or by the executive for "good reason" other than in connection with a "change in control" (and other than by reason of an executive's retirement, death or disability); (iii) in the event of a termination by us without "cause" or by the executive for "good reason" 30 days prior to, or within 24 months after, a "change in control" (and other than by reason of an executive's death, disability or retirement); (iv) in the event solely of a "sale event," which is defined under the Amended and Restated Stock Option and Award Plan to be the same as a "change in control" under the Executive Employment Plan; and (v) in the event of a termination in connection with an executive's retirement, death or termination due to disability; in each case, occurring as of August 28, 2021, which was the last day of fiscal 2021.



Name	Termination with Cause (1)	Termination by Company without Cause or by Executive for Good Reason (2)	Termination by Company without Cause or by Executive for Good Reason within 24 Months of Change in Control (3)	Sale Event (4)	Retirement (5)	Death (6)	Termination Due to Disability (7)
<i>Steven S. Sintros</i>							
Cash Payments (\$)	\$ —	\$ 2,868,750	\$ 2,868,750	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Acceleration of Vesting of RSUs (\$) (8)	—	—	737,290	1,501,125	—	737,290	—
Acceleration of Vesting of SARs (\$) (9)	—	—	237,353	1,107,521	—	237,353	—
Continued Health Benefits (\$)	—	10,168	10,168	—	—	—	—
Total (\$)	\$ —	\$ 2,878,918	\$ 3,853,561	\$ 2,608,646	\$ —	\$ 974,643	\$ —
<i>Shane F. O'Connor</i>							
Cash Payments (\$)	\$ —	\$ 643,234	\$ 895,933	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Acceleration of Vesting of RSUs (\$) (8)	—	—	267,502	743,926	—	267,502	—
Acceleration of Vesting of SARs (\$) (9)	—	—	98,034	206,538	—	98,034	—
Continued Health Benefits (\$)	—	3,887	5,831	—	—	—	—
Total (\$)	\$ —	\$ 647,121	\$ 1,267,300	\$ 950,464	\$ —	\$ 365,536	\$ —
<i>Cynthia Croatti</i>							
Cash Payments (\$)	\$ —	\$ 915,651	\$ 1,275,371	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Acceleration of Vesting of RSUs (\$) (8)	—	—	324,023	928,363	1,252,387	324,023	—
Acceleration of Vesting of SARs (\$) (9)	—	—	118,767	944,503	1,063,270	118,767	—
Continued Health Benefits (\$)	—	3,537	5,305	—	—	—	—
Total (\$)	\$ —	\$ 919,188	\$ 1,723,466	\$ 1,872,866	\$ 2,315,657	\$ 442,790	\$ —
							\$ —
<i>David M. Katz</i>							
Cash Payments (\$)	\$ —	\$ 750,835	\$ 1,045,806	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Acceleration of Vesting of RSUs (\$) (8)	—	—	267,502	742,325	—	267,502	—
Acceleration of Vesting of SARs (\$) (9)	—	—	98,034	666,205	—	98,034	—
Continued Health Benefits (\$)	—	4,917	7,375	—	—	—	—
Total (\$)	\$ —	\$ 755,752	\$ 1,418,717	\$ 1,408,530	\$ —	\$ 365,536	\$ —
<i>David A. DiFillippo</i>							
Cash Payments (\$)	\$ —	\$ 689,928	\$ 960,971	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Acceleration of Vesting of RSUs (\$) (8)	—	—	267,502	742,325	—	267,502	—
Acceleration of Vesting of SARs (\$) (9)	—	—	98,034	666,205	—	98,034	—
Continued Health Benefits (\$)	—	5,084	7,625	—	—	—	—
Total (\$)	\$ —	\$ 695,012	\$ 1,334,132	\$ 1,408,530	\$ —	\$ 365,536	\$ —

- (1) Represents termination of the executive by the Company with “cause” as defined under the Executive Employment Plan or the terms of the SARs and RSUs granted to the executive, as applicable.
- (2) Represents termination of the executive by the Company without “cause” or by the executive for “good reason,” in each case in the absence of a “change in control.” Such terms are defined under the Executive Employment Plan or SAR or RSU awards granted to the executive, as applicable. Upon such a termination, the executive, subject to certain

conditions, is entitled to receive (a) a cash payment equal to, in the case of the Chief Executive Officer, two times, and in the case of each other executive, one times the sum of (i) the executive's base salary and (ii) the target cash incentive bonus for the fiscal year in which the termination occurs (or the target cash incentive bonus with respect to the immediately preceding fiscal year if no target cash incentive bonus has been established); (b) a cash payment equal to the target cash incentive bonus for the fiscal year in which the termination occurs (or the target cash incentive bonus with respect to the immediately preceding fiscal year if no target cash incentive bonus has been established), prorated for the numbers of days of the fiscal year that the executive was employed through the termination date; and (c) if the executive was participating in the Company's group health plan immediately prior to termination and elects COBRA health continuation, a monthly cash payment for (i) 24 months for the Chief Executive Officer or for 12 months for each other executive, or (ii) the executive's COBRA health continuation period, whichever ends earlier, in an amount equal to the monthly employer contribution that the Company would have made to provide health insurance to the executive if the executive had remained employed by the Company.

- (3) Represents termination of the executive by the Company without "cause" or by the executive for "good reason," in each case during the period beginning 30 days prior to, and ending 24 months after, the date of a "change in control." Such terms are defined under the Executive Employment Plan or SAR or RSU awards granted to the executive, as applicable. Upon such a termination, the executive, subject to certain conditions, is entitled to receive (a) a cash payment equal to, in the case of the Chief Executive Officer, two times, and in the case of each other executive, 1.5 times the sum of (i) the executive's base salary and (ii) the target cash incentive bonus for the fiscal year in which the termination occurs (or the target cash incentive bonus with respect to the immediately preceding fiscal year if no target cash incentive bonus has been established); (b) a cash payment equal to the target cash incentive bonus for the fiscal year in which the termination occurs (or the target cash incentive bonus with respect to the immediately preceding fiscal year if no target cash incentive bonus has been established), prorated for the number of days of the fiscal year that the executive was employed through the termination date; and (c) if the executive was participating in the Company's group health plan immediately prior to termination and elects COBRA health continuation, a monthly cash payment for (i) 24 months for the Chief Executive Officer or for 18 months for each other executive, or (ii) the executive's COBRA health continuation period, whichever ends earlier, in an amount equal to the monthly employer contribution that the Company would have made to provide health insurance to the executive if the executive had remained employed by the Company. In addition, upon such a termination, all unvested SARs and RSUs granted to the executives beginning in October 2020 vest in full.
- (4) Upon a "sale event" as defined in the Amended and Restated 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, all unvested SAR and RSU awards granted to the executives prior to October 2020 vest in full. Unvested SAR and RSU awards granted to the executives beginning in October 2020 do not vest solely upon a sale event and instead vest upon termination of the executive without "cause" or by the executive for "good reason," in each case during the period beginning 30 days prior to, and ending 24 months after, the date of a "sale event."
- (5) Upon an executive's retirement on or after the first day of the month in which the executive may retire under the Social Security Act with no reduction in the executive's social security benefits, all unvested SAR and RSU awards granted to the executive vest in full. In addition, upon such retirement, the executive will be entitled to receive a plan benefit under the SERP. Assuming a retirement on the last day of fiscal 2021, Ms. Croatti would be entitled to a plan benefit in the amount set forth above in the "Pension Benefits Table – Fiscal 2021." For more information concerning the SERP, see the discussion under the heading "UniFirst Corporation Unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan" above.
- (6) Upon the death of an executive, all unvested SAR and RSU awards granted to the executive beginning in October 2020 vest in full.
- (7) Upon termination of an executive due to disability, all unvested SAR and RSU awards granted to the executive beginning in October 2020 continue to vest in accordance with the vesting schedules of such awards.
- (8) Amounts presented reflect the Company's stock price as of the last trading day of fiscal 2021 multiplied by the number of unvested RSUs held by the executive as of the last day of fiscal 2021.
- (9) Amounts presented reflect for each SAR award held by the executive as of the last day of fiscal 2021, the Company's stock price as of the last trading day of fiscal 2021 minus the exercise price of the SAR award, multiplied by the number of unvested SARs.

## Pay Ratio Disclosure

As required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”), the SEC adopted a rule requiring annual disclosure of the ratio of the annual total compensation of a company’s median employee to the total annual compensation of a company’s principal executive officer. The principal executive officer of our Company is Mr. Sintros.

For fiscal 2021, the annual total compensation of Mr. Sintros was \$3,276,334, as shown in the Summary Compensation Table above. The annual total compensation of our median employee for fiscal 2021, which was calculated in the same manner as the total annual compensation of Mr. Sintros, was \$32,458. Based on such information, the ratio of the annual total compensation of Mr. Sintros to the annual total compensation of our median employee for fiscal 2021 was approximately 101 to 1.

We identified the median employee by measuring compensation for fiscal 2021 (the “Measurement Period”) for 12,868 employees, representing all full-time, part-time, seasonal and temporary employees of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries as of August 28, 2021. Such number of employees does not include any independent contractors or “leased” workers, as permitted by applicable SEC rules. Such number does not exclude any employees of businesses acquired by us or combined with us. As permitted by SEC rules, we also excluded our employees in Nicaragua and Europe in part because, in each case, such employees represent less than 5% of our total workforce. The excluded employees consisted of 641 employees in Nicaragua and 90 employees in Europe.

We identified the median employee using the total cash compensation paid to each employee for the Measurement Period. We did not utilize any statistical sampling or cost-of-living adjustments for purposes of determining the median employee. We annualized the compensation of full-time and part-time employees (other than seasonal or temporary employees) who were hired during fiscal 2021 but did not work for us for the entire fiscal year.

## Director Compensation – Fiscal 2021

The Compensation Committee determines Director compensation based on the following principles: (1) Director compensation should be aligned with the long-term interest of shareholders; (2) Director compensation should be used to motivate Director behavior; (3) Directors should be adequately compensated for their time and effort; and (4) Director compensation should be approached on an overall basis, rather than as an array of separate elements.

We determine Director compensation on a fiscal year basis. For fiscal 2021, we determined to make no changes to the Director compensation program that was in effect for fiscal 2020. The non-employee Director fee schedule for fiscal 2021 was as follows: an annual fee of \$50,000; an annual fee for chairing the Audit Committee of \$12,500; an annual fee for chairing a Committee other than the Audit Committee of \$7,500; an annual fee for the Chairman of the Board of \$12,500; a \$5,000 fee for each Board meeting attended; a \$3,000 fee for each Audit, Compensation or Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meeting attended; a \$2,500 fee for participating in a telephonic Board meeting; and a \$1,500 fee for participating in a telephonic Audit, Compensation or Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meeting. As part of the annual compensation, each non-employee Director receives 1,000 fully vested stock-settled stock appreciation rights at an exercise price equal to the closing price of the Company’s Common Stock on the grant date. In addition, each non-employee Director receives shares of unrestricted Common Stock having a value (based on the closing price of the Company’s Common Stock on the grant date) equal to \$80,000. Those Directors who satisfy the minimum share ownership requirement under the Company’s Director Stock Ownership Policy may elect to receive a cash payment of \$80,000 in lieu of the shares of unrestricted Common Stock.

Each Director who was also an employee of our Company received no Director’s fees during fiscal year 2021.

The compensation earned by our non-employee Directors during fiscal 2021 is set forth in the table below.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards(1)	Share-Based Awards(2)	All Other Compensation	Total
Phillip L. Cohen (3)	\$ 205,500	—	\$ 41,050	—	\$ 246,550
Thomas S. Postek (3)	\$ 176,500	—	\$ 41,050	—	\$ 217,550
Michael Iandoli (4)	\$ 153,000	\$ 40,066	\$ 41,050	—	\$ 234,116
Kathleen Camilli (3)	\$ 176,500	—	\$ 41,050	—	\$ 217,550
Raymond C. Zemlin (3)	\$ 205,500	—	\$ 41,050	—	\$ 246,550

- (1) Our non-employee Directors were granted \$80,000 of shares of unrestricted Common Stock on October 26, 2020. As described above and below, our non-employee Directors other than Mr. Iandoli elected to receive cash in lieu of receiving unrestricted Common Stock. Mr. Iandoli elected to receive \$40,000 in cash and \$40,000 of unrestricted stock, which resulted in his receipt of 240 shares of Common Stock. The amount shown for Mr. Iandoli represents the aggregate grant date fair value related to 240 shares of unrestricted Common Stock awarded to Mr. Iandoli, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC 718 (excluding the effect of any estimate of future forfeitures). Such shares of Common Stock, which were granted on October 26, 2020, were fully vested on the date of grant. Additional information concerning our financial reporting of equity award grants is presented in Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2021.
- (2) The amounts shown represent the aggregate grant date fair value related to the grant of 1,000 stock-settled stock appreciation rights to each of our non-employee Directors on October 26, 2020, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (excluding the effect of any estimate of future forfeitures). These stock appreciation rights were fully vested upon grant and expire eight years after the grant date or on the second anniversary of the date that the Director ceases to be a member of the Board of Directors, whichever occurs first. Additional information concerning our financial reporting of stock appreciation rights is presented in Notes 1 and 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2021.
- (3) Amounts shown include an \$80,000 cash payment in lieu of receiving a grant of \$80,000 of shares of unrestricted Common Stock.
- (4) Amounts shown include a \$40,000 cash payment in lieu of receiving a grant of \$40,000 of shares of unrestricted Common Stock.

#### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

During the 2021 fiscal year, the Compensation Committee consisted of Messrs. Iandoli, Cohen, Postek and Zemlin and Ms. Camilli. None of these individuals has served as an officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. During the 2021 fiscal year, to the knowledge of the Company, none of its executive officers:

- served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on the Compensation Committee;
- served as directors of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on the Compensation Committee; or
- served as members of the compensation committee of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as one of the Company's Directors.

## REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is composed entirely of independent directors meeting the requirements of applicable Securities and Exchange Commission and New York Stock Exchange rules. The key responsibilities of our committee are set forth in our Charter and include overseeing the integrity of the Company's financial statements, the independent auditors' qualifications and independence and the performance of the independent auditors and the internal audit function.

We serve in an oversight capacity and are not intended to be part of the Company's operational or managerial decision-making process. UniFirst's management is responsible for preparing the consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for assessing the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and its independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing those statements. Our principal purpose is to monitor these processes.

The Audit Committee has, among other things:

- Reviewed and discussed with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended August 28, 2021, including a discussion of accounting principles, judgments and disclosure in the audited financial statements.
- Reviewed and discussed with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the quarterly and annual earnings press releases prior to release and the quarterly and annual reports on Form 10-Q and 10-K prior to filing.
- Reviewed the performance of the Company's internal audit function.
- Discussed with management, the internal auditors and the independent registered public accounting firm the results of the testing of internal controls over financial reporting.
- Discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and the plans for the annual audit, the results of their examination and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.
- Discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.
- Reviewed all audit and non-audit services performed by the independent registered public accounting firm and considered whether the provision of non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence.
- Reviewed the performance, qualifications and independence of the independent registered public accounting firm.
- Received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the auditors' independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm and the report of the independent public accounting firm, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board approved, the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended August 28, 2021 be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Submitted by the Audit Committee for fiscal 2021

Phillip L. Cohen (Chair)  
Kathleen M. Camilli  
Thomas S. Postek

### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee appointed Ernst & Young LLP (“Ernst & Young”) as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit the fiscal 2021 financial statements. Fees billed for services in fiscal 2021 and 2020 were as follows:

	<b>Fiscal 2021</b>	<b>Fiscal 2020</b>
Audit Fees (1)	\$ 1,972,900	\$ 1,961,709
Audit Related Fees	\$ —	\$ —
Tax Fees (2)	\$ 361,094	\$ 262,666
All Other Fees	\$ —	\$ —

- (1) Audit fees were for the audit of the Company’s annual financial statements, audit of the effectiveness of the Company’s internal controls over financial reporting, and review of the Company’s quarterly financial statements.
- (2) Tax fees were for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning.

Under its charter, the Audit Committee must pre-approve all audit and permitted non-audit services to be provided by our independent registered public accounting firm unless an exception to such pre-approval exists under the Exchange Act or the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Each year, the Audit Committee approves the retention of the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our financial statements, including the associated fee. All of the fees disclosed above were approved by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has considered whether the provisions of such services, including non-audit services, by Ernst & Young is compatible with maintaining Ernst & Young’s independence and has concluded that it is.

### Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

The Company’s Board of Directors has adopted a written Related Person Transaction Approval Policy to monitor transactions, arrangements or relationships in which the Company is a participant and any of the following have a direct or indirect material interest: (a) an executive officer, director or director nominee; (b) an immediate family member of an executive officer, director or director nominee; (c) a shareholder that beneficially owns more than 5% of the Company’s Common Stock or Class B Common Stock; or (d) any immediate family member of such 5% shareholder. The policy generally covers related person transactions that meet the minimum threshold for disclosure under relevant Securities and Exchange Commission rules. Such related person transactions generally involve amounts exceeding \$120,000.

The Company’s Chief Financial Officer, together with outside legal counsel, identifies any potential related person transactions and, if he determines that a transaction constitutes a related person transaction under the policy, the Chief Financial Officer provides relevant details to the Audit Committee. If the Chief Financial Officer has an interest in a potential related person transaction, the Chief Executive Officer assumes the role of the Company’s Chief Financial Officer under the policy. The Audit Committee reviews relevant information concerning any proposed transaction contemplated by the Company with an individual or entity that is the subject of a disclosed relationship, and approves or disapproves the transaction, with or without conditions. Certain related person transactions are deemed pre-approved by the Audit Committee, including transactions, arrangements or relationships where the rates or charges involved in the transactions are determined by competitive bids.

During the 2021 fiscal year, the Company was not a participant in any related party transactions that required disclosure under this heading.

## **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Executive officers, Directors and greater than 10% shareholders of the Company are required to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, reports of ownership and changes in ownership. Such reports are filed on Form 3, Form 4 and Form 5 under the Exchange Act, as appropriate. Executive officers, Directors and greater than 10% shareholders are required by Exchange Act regulations to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

### *Delinquent Section 16(a) Reports*

To the Company's knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to the Company or written representations that no such reports were required during the 2021 fiscal year, the Company believes that, during the 2021 fiscal year, all executive officers, Directors and greater than 10% shareholders of the Company complied with applicable Section 16(a) filing requirements, except that each of Messrs. O'Connor, DiFillippo, Michael Croatti, William Ross, Matthew Croatti and Ms. Croatti inadvertently filed one late Form 4 with respect to one transaction due to a processing delay by the Company's third party service provider that made the applicable filings. In addition, Mr. Sintros inadvertently filed two late Form 4 reports with respect to two transactions.



## **PROPOSAL 2**

### **RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for its fiscal year ending August 27, 2022. Ernst & Young LLP has served as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm since 2002. The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, retention, compensation and oversight of the work of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work. In making its determinations regarding whether to appoint or retain a particular independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee takes into account the views of management. In addition, although not required by law, the Audit Committee will take into account the vote of the Company's shareholders with respect to the ratification of the appointment of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

A representative of Ernst & Young LLP is expected to participate at the Annual Meeting. He or she will have an opportunity to make a statement, if he or she desires to do so, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

#### **Vote Required**

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by holders of shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, voting together as a single class and represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote thereon, is required for approval.

#### **Recommendation**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE "FOR" THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 27, 2022.**

## OTHER MATTERS

Management is not aware of any other matters which may come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof; however, if any matters other than those set forth in the attached Notice of Annual Meeting should be properly presented at the Annual Meeting, the persons named in the proxy intend to take such action as will be, in their discretion, consistent with the best interest of the Company.

### Shareholder Proposals

Under the Company's By-laws, any shareholder desiring to present a proposal for inclusion in the Company's Proxy Statement in connection with the Company's 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must submit the proposal so as to be received by the Secretary of the Company at the principal executive offices of the Company, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887, not later than August 4, 2022. In addition, in order to be included in the Proxy Statement, such a proposal must comply with the requirements as to form and substance established by applicable laws and regulations.

Shareholders wishing to present business for action, other than proposals to be included in the Company's Proxy Statement, or to nominate candidates for election as Directors at a meeting of the Company's shareholders, must do so in accordance with the Company's By-laws. The By-laws provide, among other requirements, that in order to be presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, such shareholder proposals or nominations may be made only by a shareholder of record who shall have given notice of the proposal or nomination and the related required information to the Company no earlier than September 13, 2022 and no later than October 28, 2022.

### Annual Report on Form 10-K

The Company will provide any shareholder with a copy of its Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the financial statements and schedules to such report but excluding exhibits, required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the Company's most recent fiscal year, without charge, upon receipt of a phone call or written request from such shareholder. Such request must be made to the Company's Investor Services group by calling (978) 658-8888 or by writing to Investor Services, UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.

### Delivery of Documents to Shareholders Sharing an Address

If you share an address with any of the Company's other shareholders, your household might receive only one copy of the Proxy Statement, Annual Report and Notice, as applicable. To request individual copies of any of these materials for each shareholder in your household, please contact the Company's Investor Services, UniFirst Corporation, 68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887 (telephone: (978) 658-8888). The Company will deliver copies of the Proxy Statement, Annual Report and/or Notice promptly following your written or oral request. To ask that only one copy of any of these materials be mailed to your household, please contact your broker.

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE REVIEW THE PROXY MATERIALS, INCLUDING OUR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K, AT [WWW.EDOCUMENTVIEW.COM/UNF](http://WWW.EDOCUMENTVIEW.COM/UNF) AND VOTE BY INTERNET AT [WWW.ENVISIONREPORTS.COM/UNF](http://WWW.ENVISIONREPORTS.COM/UNF), BY TELEPHONE OR BY PROXY CARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT AND THE NOTICE. IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE YOUR SHARES VOTED AS INSTRUCTED IN THE PROXY OR YOU MAY WITHDRAW YOUR PROXY AT THE MEETING AND VOTE YOUR SHARES IN PERSON. IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD IN STREET NAME, PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR BROKER, BANK OR OTHER NOMINEE TO HAVE YOUR SHARES VOTED.**

Wilmington, Massachusetts  
December 2, 2021



