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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RECEIVED

DEC 23 2020

CONSUMER PROTECTION

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426 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200
Devon, PA 19333

December 15, 2020

VIA U.S. MAIL

Consumer Protection Bureau
Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Notice of Data Event

Dear Sir or Madam:

We represent The Wheeler School (“TWS”) located at 216 Hope St. Providence, Rhode Island 02906, and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of some personal information relating to four (4) New Hampshire residents. The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and this notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, TWS does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law, the applicability of the New Hampshire data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

Nature of the Data Event

On Thursday, July 16, 2020, TWS was among many organizations across the country notified that one of its third-party vendors, Blackbaud, Inc. (“Blackbaud”), was the target of a cyber incident. Blackbaud is one of the most commonly utilized cloud computing providers that offers customer relationship management and financial services tools for many independent schools, universities, and non-profit organizations. TWS itself was not the target of this incident and did not experience any internal breach of data.

Blackbaud reported that, in May 2020, it experienced a ransomware incident that resulted in encryption of certain Blackbaud systems. Blackbaud reported the incident to law enforcement and worked with forensic investigators to determine the nature and scope of the incident. Following its investigation, Blackbaud notified its customers that an unknown actor may have accessed or acquired certain Blackbaud customer data. Blackbaud reported that the data was exfiltrated by the threat actor at some point before Blackbaud locked the threat actor out of the environment on May 20, 2020.

Upon learning of the Blackbaud incident, TWS immediately commenced an investigation to determine what, if any, sensitive TWS data was potentially involved and also notified individuals TWS understood

to be impacted on July 21, 2020. On September 29, 2020, TWS received additional information from Blackbaud that allowed it to confirm that the information potentially affected may have contained more personal information for some former students and vendors of TWS than was previously reported; this information included the name, address, Social Security number of four (4) New Hampshire residents.

Notice to New Hampshire Residents

On December 15, 2020, TWS provided written notice of this incident to all affected individuals, which includes four (4) New Hampshire residents. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as *Exhibit A*.

Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

Upon discovering the event, TWS moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of TWS systems, and notify potentially affected individuals. TWS is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees, and is working with Blackbaud to evaluate additional measures and safeguards to protect against this type of incident in the future. TWS is providing access to credit monitoring services for two (2) years, through Epiq, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, TWS is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. TWS is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, information on protecting against tax fraud, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4775.

Very truly yours,



Christopher J. DiIenno of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

CJD/eeb
Enclosure

EXHIBIT A



Return Mail Processing Center
P.O. Box 6336
Portland, OR 97228-6336

<<MailID>>
<<Name 1>>
<<Name 2>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<Address 3>>
<<Address 4>>
<<Address 5>>
<<City>><<State>><<Zip>>
<<Country>>

<<Date>>

Re: Notice of Security Breach

Dear <<Name 1>>,

The Wheeler School (“TWS”) writes to inform you of a recent incident at one of our third-party vendors that may affect the privacy of some of your personal information. This notice provides information about the incident, our response, and resources available to you to help protect your information from possible misuse, should you feel it necessary to do so.

What Happened? On Thursday, July 16, 2020, TWS was among many organizations across the country notified that one of its third-party vendors, Blackbaud, Inc. (“Blackbaud”), was the target of a cyber incident. Blackbaud is one of the most commonly utilized cloud computing providers that offers customer relationship management and financial services tools for many independent schools, universities, and non-profit organizations. TWS itself was not the target of this incident and did not experience any compromise of its own systems.

Blackbaud reported that, in May 2020, it experienced a ransomware incident that resulted in encryption of certain Blackbaud systems. Blackbaud reported the incident to law enforcement and worked with forensic investigators to determine the nature and scope of the incident. Following its investigation, Blackbaud notified its customers that an unknown actor may have accessed or acquired certain Blackbaud customer data. Blackbaud reported that certain data was exfiltrated by the threat actor at some point before Blackbaud locked the threat actor out of the environment. Unfortunately, Blackbaud’s incident impacted a significant number of organizations, including TWS.

Upon learning of the Blackbaud incident, TWS immediately commenced an investigation to determine what, if any, sensitive TWS data was potentially involved and also notified individuals we understood to be impacted on July 21, 2020. This investigation included working diligently to gather further information from Blackbaud to understand the scope of the incident. On September 29, 2020, TWS received additional information from Blackbaud that allowed us to confirm that the information potentially affected may have contained more personal information for some former students and vendors of TWS than we previously understood.

What Information is Involved? The information related to you and maintained by Blackbaud that we learned on September 29, 2020, may have been impacted includes your name and Social Security number.

What Are We Doing? We take the security of information entrusted to us very seriously and apologize for the inconvenience this incident has caused. As part of our ongoing commitment to the security of information in our care, TWS is working to review our existing policies and procedures regarding our third-party vendors, and we are working with Blackbaud to evaluate additional measures and safeguards to protect against this type of incident in the future. We are also notifying state regulators, where required.

What You Can Do. As a best practice, we encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and credit reports for suspicious activity. You may also review the information contained in the attached *Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information*. Although we are not aware of any actual or attempted misuse of your personal information, as an added precaution we have arranged to offer you access to 24 months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services provided through Epiq. Although we are making these services available to you, we are unable to enroll you directly. For enrollment instructions, please review the information contained in the attached *Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information*.

For More Information. We understand that you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, please call our dedicated assistance line at 800-535-7146, Monday through Friday, during the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time (excluding U.S. holidays). You may also write to TWS at: 216 Hope St. Providence, Rhode Island 02906.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Wilson

Kathleen M. Wilson
Director of Finance
The Wheeler School

Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information

Enroll in Credit Monitoring

We are providing you with access to **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring*** services at no charge. Services are for two years *or* 24 months from the date of enrollment. When changes occur to your Experian credit file, notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. In addition, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions you might have. In the event you become a victim of fraud you will also have access remediation support from a CyberScout Fraud Investigator. In order for you to receive the monitoring service described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. *or* You have 90 days from receipt of this notice to sign up for these services.

How do I enroll for the free services?

To enroll in Credit Monitoring* services at no charge, please log on to <https://www.myidmanager.com> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: [REDACTED]. In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter.

Monitor Accounts

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity. Under U.S. law you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also contact the three major credit bureaus directly to request a free copy of your credit report.

You have the right to place a "security freeze" on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization. The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a security freeze on your credit report. Should you wish to place a security freeze, please contact the major consumer reporting agencies listed below:

Experian

PO Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com/freeze/center.html

TransUnion

P.O. Box 160
Woodlyn, PA 19094
1-888-909-8872
www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

Equifax

PO Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
1-800-685-1111
www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

As an alternative to a security freeze, you have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on your file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the agencies listed below:

Experian

P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742

www.experian.com/fraud/center.html

TransUnion

P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
1-800-680-7289

www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert

Equifax

P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
1-888-766-0008

www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes, and the steps you can take to protect yourself by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General.

The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and your state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For Maryland residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-410-528-8662, www.oag.state.md.us. You may write to TWS at: 20 E. 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128.

For New Mexico residents, you have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violators. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For North Carolina residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000, www.ncdoj.gov. You can obtain information from the Attorney General or the Federal Trade Commission about preventing identity theft.

For Rhode Island Residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General can be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903; www.riag.ri.gov, 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are 1,290 Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.

For New York residents, the Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

For District of Columbia residents, the Office of the District of Columbia Attorney General can be contacted at 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; Phone (202) 727-3400; Fax: (202) 347-8922; TTY: (202) 727-3400; Email: oag@dc.gov; or you may visit the website of the Office of the District of Columbia Attorney General at <https://oag.dc.gov/>.