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# PELOTON

# A CALL FOR ACTION

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76.67

February 2022

Peloton Interactive, Inc. (NASDAQ: PTON)

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PELOTON INTERACTIVE, INC.

# **Executive Summary**

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** OVERVIEW OF PELOTON

# **P**ELOTON<sup>®</sup>

- Peloton is an interactive fitness platform with millions of members, offering connected, technology-enabled fitness classes that utilize its proprietary hardware
- The Company's Connected Fitness products include the Peloton Bike, Bike+, Peloton Tread and Tread+
- Peloton generates strong recurring revenue from its Members, who pay subscription fees to access Peloton's app or Connected Fitness products
- The Company has been challenged by a series of execution errors; as a result, Q1 2022 revenue was down ~36% from the Company's peak in Q3 2021





Enterprise Value	\$8,753 Million
Market Cap	\$8,043 Million
LTM Revenue	\$4,069 Million
LTM Adj. EBITDA	(\$99) Million
EV/LTM Revenue	2.2x
Employees (as of June 30, 2021)	8,976
LTM Revenue/Employee	\$453,342

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** A HIGHLY COVETED ASSET

#### Peloton has the hallmarks of an extremely valuable and attractive business, which need to be protected



- Large addressable market; early days for market penetration
- Largest interactive fitness platform
- Admired brand with top-ranked NPS scores
- Recurring subscription-based revenue model with high incremental margins
- Network effects from ecosystem and stickiness from "star" instructors
- Highly engaged subscriber base with low churn
- Multiple growth drivers, including unrealized pricing power
- Significant intellectual property

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** PELOTON'S PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN ABYSMAL

Peloton's 2021 total shareholder return of -76% was the <u>worst</u> of any company in the Nasdaq 300 Index



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** UNDERPERFORMANCE CAN BE TRACED TO SEVERAL FACTORS

Peloton's escalating problems stem from poor decisions and misaligned incentives



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** THE BOARD MUST EXAMINE A SALE OF THE COMPANY

# Peloton's Board should compare the risk-adjusted standalone value to a sale

- A stand-alone Peloton cannot achieve its full potential given:
  - Lack of management capability and credibility
  - A stressed balance sheet and ongoing significant cash burn
- It will take years of operational restructuring, organizational redevelopment and positive results for the company to regain investor confidence and multiple expansion
- Peloton would be extremely attractive to several technology, streaming, media, metaverse and sportswear companies interested in extending into the rapidly growing health and wellness category



PELOTON INTERACTIVE, INC.

# **Peloton is an Attractive Business**

# PELOTON HAS UNIQUE AND APPEALING CHARACTERISTICS

- High quality, intelligently-designed products that become the centerpiece of a home gym
- Subscription model with a wide variety of fresh, immersive fitness classes leading to resilient memberships
- Talented "star" instructors, great music, cool technology and an interactive competitive experience (live and on-demand)
- Top-ranked brand and industry-leading Net Promotor Scores (NPS) enable new product extensions into additional fitness equipment, apparel and accessories
- Extremely difficult for competitors to replicate the business model, technological innovation and community supporters
- Retail stores and direct-to-consumer delivery and service capabilities create a powerful advantage over competitors



# DISRUPTIVE BUSINESS UPENDING TRADITIONAL HEALTH & FITNESS MODELS

Peloton's disruptive business model fundamentally improves the fitness experience across two key variables: Convenience and Cost

#### Convenience

- Unlimited fitness classes anytime, anywhere, on any device
- Nearly 1,000 new classes per month: cycling, running, strength training, bootcamp, stretching, yoga and meditation

#### Cost

- Entire household for \$39.00 per month compares favorably to ~\$300 per month per person for boutique fitness classes
- Financing program for bikes and treadmills unlocks demand from cohort of gym goers that would otherwise be unable to afford the offering



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# LARGE ADDRESSABLE MARKET IN EARLY INNINGS OF MARKET PENETRATION

### Numerous drivers as Peloton transitions from a largely US bike business into a global fitness platform

#### Large Addressable Market

- Global wellness spending ~ \$4.2 trillion of which fitness is ~ \$600 billion
- Approximately 180 million gym memberships globally in 2018 including approximately 62 million in the U.S.

#### **Early Innings of Market Penetration**

- In 2020, there were 74 million people who went to gyms in the United States
- Planet Fitness alone has ~14 million members



#### **Expanded Connected Fitness Product Portfolio**

# HIGHLY ENGAGED SUBSCRIBER BASE WITH LOW CHURN & SAAS BUSINESS UNIT ECONOMICS

### Highly engaged subscriber base with low churn creates a strong, recurring revenue stream





### **Attractive Underlying Unit Economics**

Ability to drive significant operating leverage as business scales

- High subscription contribution margin of 60% to 70%
- Significant content leverage across existing studios (U.S. and U.K.) and instructors

#### ✓ Attractive Lifetime Value

- Low churn
- Historically offset cost of customer acquisition with gross profit earned on Connected Fitness Products

# POWERFUL NETWORK EFFECTS

#### "Star" instructors and social media creates competitive moat and network effect

- Peloton's instructors provide differentiated experience and have grown significant social media followings
- Frequency of workouts has increased, reflecting customer satisfaction
- The platform has a social aspect, so satisfied customers are likely to refer friends
- This virtuous circle that allows company to invest in more content and the social aspects of the platform



**Monthly Workouts Per Subscriber** 



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# PELOTON STOCK IS UNDERVALUED: EV/REVENUE

#### Peloton is worth substantially more than its current stock price using Revenue multiples



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Sources: Company filings. Consensus data from CapitalIQ. Company closing stock price trading session as of February 4, 2022, per Bloomberg. Note: Based on net debt of \$711 million and 333 million shares outstanding.

# PELOTON STOCK IS UNDERVALUED: EV/GROSS PROFIT

#### Peloton is worth substantially more than its current stock price using Gross Profit multiples



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Sources: Company filings. Consensus data from CapitallQ. Company closing stock price trading session as of February 4, 2022, per Bloomberg. Note: Based on net debt of \$711 million and 333 million shares outstanding. PELOTON INTERACTIVE, INC.

# **Peloton's Underperformance**

## PELOTON'S STOCK HAS PERFORMED POORLY



# We think we are playing chess where others are – to be honest, aren't even playing checkers.

John Foley September 22, 2021

# YET, PELOTON'S RELATIVE SHAREHOLDER RETURNS HAVE BEEN ABYSMAL...



Total Shareholder Return Since IPO





#### Total Shareholder Return Since March 2020



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## ...AND INVESTORS AND ANALYSTS REMAIN SKEPTICAL

Despite Peloton's low multiple, investors are still actively betting against the stock, and the analyst community appears to doubt management's ability to execute



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# **Peloton Has Been Grossly Mismanaged**

# PELOTON'S UNDERPERFORMANCE IS DUE TO MISMANAGEMENT

	Peloton's escalating	problems stem from poor decisions and misaligned incentives
1	Lack of Qualification:	CEO John Foley is right to be insecure about his capabilities and qualifications
2	Poor Decision Making:	Mr. Foley has made a series of poor decisions relating to product, pricing, demand, safety and capital allocation
3	Lack of Financial Discipline:	Under Mr. Foley's management, the Company suffers from a lack of financial discipline and ineffective internal controls
4	Misalignment of Interests:	Mr. Foley's interests and incentives are misaligned with employees and shareholders
5	Loss of Credibility:	Mr. Foley has lost credibility with discontent employees, shareholders and analysts



# LACK OF QUALIFICATION: FOLEY ON FOLEY



I think I'm not a very good manager
I interview almost nobody

TIME Interview with John Foley, Peloton CEO<sup>3</sup>

Is there anything about being CEO that you don't like, that you like to delegate?

#### John Foley's Response

"

Finance. Our CFO does 99% of finance. I engage because I want to know how we're doing. But to say I don't add value to her operation is an understatement. You can also say the same with technology. Our CTO doesn't get any help from me. I'll go sometimes months without talking to our CTO, which as a CEO of a technology company, that's kind of rare. How would your colleagues, your co-founders, describe your strengths as a manager?

John Foley's Response

I'm not sure they'd say I have many strengths at all.

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ABC News interview, May 5, 2016: https://abcnews.go.com/Business/peloton-fitness-apple-technology/story?id=38886911

2. LinkedIn interview, March 13, 2019: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/one-believed-pelotons-ceo-he-built-company-heres-how-john-daniel-roth/

Time Magazine interview, May 26, 2020: https://time.com/5839552/peloton-ceo-john-foley/



2.

Peloton Interactive Q3 2021 Earnings Call transcript.

## LACK OF QUALIFICATION: MR. FOLEY MANAGES WITH UNBRIDLED OPTIMISM RATHER THAN DISCIPLINE



Peloton Interactive Q1 2022 Earnings Call transcript

4.

# "What's the optimal price point, \$1000?"<sup>1</sup>



Management does not have a well-informed pricing strategy and continues to vacillate on pricing strategy, confusing the market and harming shareholders

<ul> <li>Peloton is slashing the price of its Bike prite Bike price of its Bike price of its Bike price of its Bike</li></ul>	August 26, 2021	January 18, 2022
Peloton is slashing the price of its Bike by hundreds of dollars to \$1,495		THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
Litter Themas       Delto a said it's cutting the price of its less expensive Bike product by about 20% to \$1,495, starting Thursday.       The prices people pay for some Peloton Interactive Inc. PTON 2.52% A products are about to increase.         • The price drop will also take effect in the U.K., Canada, Germany and Australia.       • The price drop will also take effect in the U.K., Canada, Germany and Australia.       • When the company debuted its Bike+ machine last September at \$2,495, it cut the       • The at-home fitness company, hurt by slowing demand, is set to start charging customers hundreds of dollars in delivery and setup fees for its basic stationary bike and treadmill products, according to a banner notice on its website.	by hundreds of dollars to \$1,495	Peloton Bikes, Treadmills Are About to Cost You More
• When the company debuted its Bike+ machine last September at \$2,495, it cut the products, according to a banner notice on its website.	• Peloton said it's cutting the price of its less expensive Bike product by about 20% to	The prices people pay for some <u>Peloton Interactive Inc</u> . <u>PTON 2.52%</u> products are about to
	<ul> <li>When the company debuted its Bike+ machine last September at \$2,495, it cut the</li> </ul>	hundreds of dollars in delivery and setup fees for its basic stationary bike and treadmill

The actual hardware sales are incredibly predictable. It's a beautiful business.

- Foley insisted demand would only ever increase
  - Foley massively increased production capacity in 2020, building inventory
  - In February 2021, Foley boasted: "We've increased the [manufacturing] capacity by 6x, which is pretty herculean, but we're definitely not going to stop there. We bought Precor. We're going to be investing in U.S. manufacturing."<sup>4</sup>
- But then demand slowed. Foley noted (at the same February conference): "We're now making more bikes and treads than we're selling"<sup>4</sup>
  - "One employee said warehouses resembled 'jigsaw puzzles' with employees trying to figure out where to stuff another bike."<sup>2</sup>
- Peloton has now been forced to moth-ball production<sup>2</sup>

"How [do] you envision managing, meeting the incredible demand that you're seeing now versus the risk of overbuilding [supply]..."

#### John Foley's Response

"[T]hat's a term that's never come up in the Peloton senior leadership rooms or boardrooms...We see that we're going to be able to market into a massive opportunity that we're going to need supply chain capacity for years and years."<sup>3</sup>

Source: John Foley on CNBC. November 5, 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZO-IBmp39o
 Source: https://www.businessinsider.com/leaked-slides-show-peloton-planning-production-pause-2022-1.

Mr. Foley responding to a question from a Goldman Sachs analyst on Q4 2020 Earnings Call
 Mr. Foley at Goldman Sachs Investor Conference, February 11, 2021.

### **POOR DECISION MAKING:** DISASTROUS BUNGLING OF TREADMILL SAFETY ISSUES

# . The New York Times-

### Child Dies in Accident Involving Peloton Treadmill<sup>1</sup>

#### April 17

CPSC Issues Statement Warning Consumers About Peloton's Tread+

"The U.S. CPSC is warning consumers about the danger of popular Peloton Tread+ exercise machine after multiple incidents of small children and a pet being injured beneath the machines."<sup>2</sup>

#### April 17

Peloton Irresponsibly and Reflexively Denies the Issue

"The company is troubled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) unilateral press release about the Peloton Tread+ because it is **inaccurate and misleading**. **There is no reason to stop using the Tread+...**"

#### May 5

Peloton Belatedly Acknowledges Issues and Apologizes

#### **Statement from John Foley**

"Peloton made a mistake in our initial response to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's request that we recall the Tread+. We should have engaged more productively with them from the outset."<sup>4</sup>

### Foley's lack of leadership has jeopardized health and safety

З.

4.

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Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/18/business/peloton-tread-death.html

 Source: "CPSC Warns Consumers: Stop Using the Peloton Tread+": https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases/2021/CPSC-Warns-Consumers-Stop-Using-the-Peloton-Tread. Source: Peloton press release issued April 17, 2021.

Source: https://www.onepeloton.com/press/articles/tread-and-tread-recall.

- Foley invested \$800 million in acquisitions and capex with pride as his lodestar
- Foley bought troubled Precor for \$431 million believing he could fix it and expand Peloton's reach into different types of commercial customers: "Precor's product portfolio and sales team will also accelerate our commercial business, where we see a significant opportunity to grow Precor's franchise while introducing the Peloton platform..."



Months later, he was forced to admit it was a mistake: "[W]e have reduced expectations for our commercial channel or legacy Precor business, given both supply and demand dynamics."<sup>2</sup>

 Then, Foley invested another \$400 million to develop 1 million square feet of production capacity



Seven months later, Foley delayed the progress, admitting the capacity was not needed

### MARKETS INSIDER

*"The slowdown in demand for Peloton makes its past decisions particularly challenging.* The company acquired exercise equipment manufacturer Precor for \$420 million in 2020 and announced it would build a US manufacturing facility for about \$400 million. But Peloton may not need that extra capacity if demand doesn't recover to the levels it saw during the pandemic."<sup>3</sup>



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3. Source: https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/peloton-stock-falls-below-ipo-price-production-halt-demand-drop-2022-1.

### Peloton signed a 15-year lease that totals more than \$450 million to be paid over the period

 At the end of 2018, Peloton signed a 15-year lease for 300,000 square feet in Manhattan  The move represented a +6x increase of space from the company's prior location in Manhattan



#### Out-of-control employee and SG&A expenses reflect a lack of discipline

- Over the past four years Peloton's employee count has grown by over 20x
- SG&A costs have nearly tripled in the last three years
- Compared to other subscription-based companies, Peloton has the lowest revenue per employee
- The Company now appears to be reversing course: rumors are that it will fire a significant portion of its workforce



#### "We're insanely disciplined"<sup>1</sup>

- Foley, on CNBC the day of Peloton's IPO



#### **Revenue Per Employee Peloton Vs. Subscription Peers**



## LACK OF FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE: INTERNAL CONTROLS ISSUES

#### Peloton fails to maintain adequate internal accounting controls

- Peloton has failed to develop basic public company accounting processes under Mr. Foley
- There is no excuse for having inadequate accounting procedures and controls at a multi-billion-dollar company





In the course of preparing our financial statements for fisc financial reporting. A material weakness is a deficiency, or such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material prevented or detected on a timely basis. The material concluded that this material weakness arose because our verify that our physical inventory counts were correctly cou

To address our material weakness, we are evaluating o implementing a global inventory count policy and standard and implementing enhanced document review for validati not be able to fully remediate this material

26



...[W]e don't really need to make money on our apparel business, because it's not our core business.

- John Foley, CEO Peloton

- John Foley put his wife in charge of the Peloton apparel business
- Recent results in the apparel line have been disappointing and it appears internal projections have been cut
- It is unclear if Ms. Foley is the best person to lead this business, or is just the person closest to Mr. Foley
- Shareholders deserve leadership from the best available managers, not nepotism

#### Performance Has Suffered

"Momentum in the [Apparel] unit, which is run by Chief Executive John Foley's wife, seems to be fading heading into the next year..."<sup>2</sup>

### **Macnbc**

#### "[Apparel] penetration into our member base is so low. How do we drive more revenue from our existing member base?"<sup>2</sup>

- Tim Shannehan, Global Chief Sales Officer



#### "[l]t's just... the dynamic is a little awkward with Jill and John."

- Tim Shannehan, Global Chief Sales Officer<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1.</sup> Source: Goldman Sachs Technology & Internet Virtual Conference (February 11, 2021) transcript.

<sup>2.</sup> Source: "Peloton internal docs show it slashed 2022 sales goals for apparel unit after segment revenue more than doubled last year." CNBC, January 31, 2022.

#### While managing with unbridled optimism, Mr. Foley sold nearly \$100 million in Peloton shares in 2021



1 Peloton Int

Peloton Interactive Q2 2021 Earnings Call transcript.
 Peloton Interactive Q3 2021 Earnings Call transcript.

Peloton Interactive Goldman Sachs Communacopia Conference transcript.
 Peloton Interactive Q1 2022 Earnings Call transcript.

- Mr. Foley and five other insiders have pledged a large portion of their Peloton shares
- Pledging is problematic because it can lead to forced stock sales in the event of a margin call and accelerate a downward spiral in the stock price
- The pledges also appear to violate Peloton's own Insider Trading Policy



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Foley has lost credibility internally, driving employee morale to an all-time low

"Morale is at an all-time low. The Company is spinning out so fast."1

# **Bloomberg**<sup>2</sup>

Business Legal Peloton's Extreme Sales Quotas Shortchanged Workers, Lawsuit Says

By <u>Chris Dolmetsch</u> January 28, 2022, 12:41 PM EST

# LAW STREET<sup>3</sup>

### Peloton Hit with Minnesota Wage and Hour Class Action

by CHRISTINA TABACCO October 29, 2021

A<u>lawsuit</u> filed on Wednesday accuses tech-fitness company Peloton Interactive Inc. of skimping on wages owed to some hourly employees.



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Source: https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/peloton-stock-falls-below-ipo-price-production-halt-demand-drop-2022-1.

Source: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-28/peloton-s-extreme-sales-quotas-led-to-unpaid- overtime-suit-says.

- MarketWatch-

Peloton stock dives further after \$1 billion public stock offering<sup>1</sup>

On Peloton's first quarter 2022 earnings call on November 4, 2021, CFO Jill Woodworth reiterated that **Peloton did not need any additional capital** 



Jill Woodworth, Peloton CFO

"...we don't see the need for any additional capital raise based on our current outlook."<sup>2</sup> Just <u>twelve days later</u>, on November 16, 2021, Peloton announced a new \$1.1 billion public stock offering<sup>3</sup>

"[Peloton] today announced the pricing of an underwritten public offering of 23,913,043 shares of its Class A common stock..."<sup>3</sup>



### Peloton's stock declined to a new 17-month low on the news

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- 1. Source: https://www.marketwatch.com/story/peloton-stock-dives-further-after-1-billion-public-stock-offering-2021-11-16
- 2. Jill Woodworth on Peloton Interactive Q1 2022 Earnings Call.
- 3. Source: Peloton Interactive, Inc. Announces Pricing Of Public Offering Of Class A Common Stock Press Release on November 16, 2021.

## LOSS OF CREDIBILITY: PATTERN OF PROMOTIONAL PUFFERY

# Inc.

### TECHNOLOGY

# **Peloton's IPO Filing Reveals Years of** Losses, Contradicting the CEO's **Previous Claim That It Was 'Weirdly'**

**Profitable** The seven-year-old startup reported a net loss of \$245.7 million in fiscal 2019, compared with a loss of \$47.9 million in 2018.

Peloton declined to comment on Foley's puzzling statement, or his definition of "weirdly," citing quiet period restrictions leading up to the company's IPO. The company said on Tuesday that it plans to list shares on the Nasdaq exchange under the ticker symbol "PTON."

"You know, this thing, I see clear as day, it's going to be one of the few trillion-dollar companies...I don't see any other way that we're not worth some staggering valuation"<sup>1</sup>

> "We have built a team that I believe is ready to run a \$500 billion company. Pick a number. A FAANG-style leadership team"<sup>2</sup>

"I see a couple hundred million people on the Peloton platform in 15 years."<sup>2</sup>

Source: Peloton CEO John Foley: We're 'Weirdly Profitable' For A Growing, Young Company | CNBC, May 23, 2018: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAdp0R8B\_rU

### Estimates of lofty growth are at odds with the current demand environment and further erode investor trust

- Mr. Foley once claimed that Peloton could reach "a couple hundred million" members in 15 years<sup>1</sup>
- Meeting Mr. Foley's target of 200 million users in 2035 would require a compound annual growth rate of over 30% for the next 15 years





*"We'll continue to be a high or hyper growth company for years and years to come"*<sup>2</sup>

– Foley, Earnings Call, August 26, 2021



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- 1. Source: Time Magazine interview, May 26, 2020: https://time.com/5839552/peloton-ceo-john-foley/.
- 2. Source: Peloton Interactive Q4 2021 Earnings Call transcript.



"We've been discussing the fact that management has been pitching long-term excitement while selling over ~\$700 million in shares since September 2020."

BMO Equity Research, January 20, 2022



# "Time will be needed to restore investor confidence"

Baird Equity Research, January 20, 2022

## LOSS OF CREDIBILITY: MANAGEMENT ADMITS IT NEEDS HELP

- Seemingly admitting the lack of internal capability, discipline and experience, Foley is looking to outsiders for answers
- Hiring McKinsey is a clear declaration of failure
- Even if McKinsey is able to develop a rescue plan, it is unclear that Mr. Foley is capable of executing it
- The Company needs a new CEO, rather than consultants to rectify past errors

### RETAIL

### Peloton hires McKinsey to review cost structure; cycle maker may cut jobs, close stores

UBLISHED TUE, JAN 18 2022-9:01 AM EST | UPDATED WED, JAN 19 2022-7:06 AM ES

Lauren Thomas @LAURENTHOMAS SHARE f 🍠 in 🖾

<u>Peloton</u> is working with management consulting group McKinsey & Co. to review its cost structure and potentially eliminate some jobs, CNBC has learned.

The possible job cuts were discussed in a recent call with members of Peloton's management team, according to a recording obtained by CNBC. The apparel division, which has seen particularly weak sales, is one area that could be targeted. The company doesn't disclose revenue from its apparel business.

Peloton is also considering asking employees at its brick-and-mortar retail stores to take customer service calls during less busy times, according to the call. At one point, a Peloton executive on the call said that 15 stores are "on the cut line." Peloton operated 123 showrooms as of June 30, in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Germany.

CNBC also viewed more than a dozen messages from an internal app for employees, as well as Slack messages, where workers have been discussing the expected job cuts and Peloton's plummeting stock price. PELOTON INTERACTIVE, INC.

# Peloton's Board & Governance Lack Accountability and Alignment

1	Inadequate Shareholder Rights	<ul> <li>Peloton's governance structure frustrates accountability and lacks basic protections</li> <li>The Company's corporate governance scores are among the worst in corporate America</li> </ul>
2	Lack of Board Independence	<ul> <li>Directors have prior or current relationships that impair effective oversight</li> </ul>
3	Troubling Insider Selling and Pledging	<ul> <li>Insiders have sold more than \$700 million in shares since Peloton's IPO</li> <li>The notional value of pledged shares by insiders exceeds \$500 million</li> </ul>
4	Misalignment of Executive Economic Interest	<ul> <li>The Company's dual-class share structure decouples economic interests from voting interests</li> <li>Peloton's executives control more than 75% of the voting power despite an economic interest of less than 15%</li> </ul>
5	Pay-for-Performance Misalignment and Poor Compensation Plan Design	There is no performance-based compensation within any of the executives' compensation plans

# PELOTON'S CORPORATE GOVERANCE IS AMONG THE WORST IN AMERICA



Peloton has an overall Governance QualityScore of 9/10 and a 10/10, the worst score possible, for Shareholder Rights from ISS



ISS recommended against every Peloton director up for election at the 2020 and the 2021 Annual Meetings



Peloton has the worst possible score for environmental disclosure and governance risk, and nearly the worst possible score for social and human rights disclosure

# Peloton's governance provides very few mechanisms to hold the Board accountable

- A second class of supervoting shares (at a ratio of 20-to-1)
- No Proxy Access provision
- No ability to call a special meeting or act by written consent
- No majority vote standard to elect directors
- Classified Board structure
- Bylaw amendments require a supermajority vote



**Quality Score** 10 = Highest Possible Risk





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### Peloton's governance is not in line with peers or market practice



BLACKWELLS CAPITAL

# PELOTON'S BOARD LACKS TRUE INDEPENDENCE



2

### Through all election cycles as a public company, ISS has not recommended voting for <u>ANY</u> directors



Peloton's executives have realized hundreds of millions of dollars in proceeds from selling their stock

 Since the IPO, Peloton's Management and Board have sold over \$700 mm worth of stock while maintaining outsized voting power through their Class B shares; they sold \$500 million in 2021 alone





In 2021, Peloton's insiders enriched themselves by selling shares as the Company's market value plunged, generating nearly \$500 million in proceeds for themselves



- As of September 30, Peloton executives had pledged approximately 6 million shares of stock with a notional value of more than \$500 million<sup>1</sup>
- Pledging of company stock by directors or executive officers can pose a substantial risk to outside shareholders
- Entities affiliated with TCV of which director Jay Hoag is a General Partner – have 27% of their Class B shares and an incredible 89% of their Class A shares pledged
- The Company has an Insider Trading Policy that, even though extremely liberal, does purport to restrict pledging, so the Board is seemingly aware of the risk
- However, this policy appears to be only loosely enforced, as John Foley, William Lynch, Thomas Cortese and Hisao Kushi all <u>appear to be in violation of the policy</u>

### % of Class B Shares Pledged<sup>2</sup>



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# The voting power of Peloton's top five executives is vastly disproportionate with their economic interest in the Company

- The Company's executives control more than 75% of the voting power, despite only having an economic interest in Peloton of approximately 12%
- As a result, Peloton's annual meetings are essentially formalities; proposals with management support are guaranteed to pass
- Public shareholders have expressed deep discontent





- Historically, Peloton's compensation structure was heavily weighted towards time-based equity awards
- The Company characterizes these awards as "variable," but the equity awards (options and RSUs) are entirely time-based, with no performance-based vesting criteria
- Peloton allows executives to choose RSUs instead of options, effectively ensuring that Peloton executives will receive substantial value from their equity awards regardless of whether Peloton's stock value increases
- Incredibly, in the first quarter of fiscal year 2022, Peloton's compensation committee removed the last vestige of performance-based compensation from the Company's pay program by eliminating the cash bonus plan for fiscal year 2022

### Base Salary + Time-Based Equity as a % of Total CEO Compensation Opportunity



### Other Negative Aspects of the Company's Compensation Program Include:

- Permissive policy permits executives to pledge up to 40% of their equity holdings
- Insufficient claw back policy
- No executive stock ownership requirements

Given the magnitude of Peloton's governance failures, we believe urgent action is needed to reconstitute the Board

- We believe the Board should immediately begin to search for new, fully independent directors with no prior ties to the current Board and management team
- We urge the Board to insist on collapsing the dual-class structure to allow for "one share, one vote," which we believe is a fundamental principle of good corporate governance and especially important at an underperforming company like Peloton
- The Board should also revamp the Company's executive compensation programs by introducing performance-based compensation triggers such that at least 50% of each executive's compensation is performance-based

New independent directors with relevant skills should be added to the Board

🗸 M&A

- ✓ Supply Chain Management
- Logistics
- Operations
- ✓ Capital Allocation

PELOTON INTERACTIVE, INC.

# The Board Should Immediately Put Peloton Up For Sale

### The Board should immediately examine a sale of the company to the highest bidder

- Managerial and operational failures have de-rated Peloton's stock from high multiple SaaS valuation to low multiple hardware valuation
  - Ongoing cash burn, constrained balance sheet, materially higher cost of capital, and significantly bloated cost structure with excess manufacturing capacity will weigh on the Company's valuation and limit its ability to execute a fast turnaround
  - Peloton's stock will remain in the penalty box for many quarters and will likely continue to trade at a significant valuation discount
- Peloton management and the Board have lost credibility with investors
  - Even under new management, it will take years for stock to regain a reasonable growth multiple
  - A new, competent management team will need 6-12 months to assess problems and another 1-2 years to fix them
- High quality and premium subscriber base represents significant strategic value for a myriad of potential acquirors

# Significant value creation opportunities

- Bundle with existing subscription and streaming services (e.g., Plug and Play)
- Lowered cost of acquisition in combined entity
- Ability to raise prices for subscriptions
- Significant SG&A savings
- Distribution & logistics synergies

- Largest interactive fitness platform in the world with premium brand and content
- **Engaged subscriber base with low churn creates** strong recurring revenue stream
- Large addressable market in early innings of market penetration
- Unrealized pricing power
- **Network effects** from ecosystem
- Significant value creation opportunities

## A SALE PROCESS WILL LIKELY ATTRACT SEVERAL STRATEGIC BIDDERS

### WEDBUSH

### February 6, 2022

Rating: OUTPERFORM Price: \$172.39 12-Month Price Target \$200.00

Analysts Daniel lyes 212-344-2073 Dan lves@wedbush.com John Katsingris 212-931-709 John Katsineris@wedbush.com

Market C	e Value (M) utst (M)	\$2,630,20 \$2,550,40 16,519 \$116.21 - \$182.9		
REV (M)			in \$	
FYE Sep	2021A	20228	2023E	
Q1 Dec	111,439.0AL	13,945.0A13	3,779.0E	
Q2 Mar	89,584.0A	90,869.0E 9	5,073.6E	
Q3 Jun	81,434.0A	83,711.5E 8	9,065.9E	
Q4 Sep	83,360.0A	88,170.6E 9	5,239.9E	
Year*	365,817.0A3	86,696.2541	3,158.5E	
EPS			in \$	
FYE Sep	2021A	20225	2023E	
Q1 Dec	1.68A	2.10A	2.03E	
Q2 Mar	1.40A	1.38E	1.35E	
Q3 Jun	1.30A	1.25E	1.38E	

5.61A data provided by Thomson Reuters. rs may not add up due to rounding

Venr\*

1.37E

6.11E 6 255

30.7x 28.2x 27.6x

### Apple (AAPL)

Could Apple Make a Bid For Peloton? Would Make Strategic Sense for Cupertino

**Company Report** 

#### The Wedbush View

With media reports swirling that Peloton could be up for sale with Amazon and Ni potential suitors, we would be shocked if Apple is not aggressively involved in th potential deal process. With Peloton stock down 80%+ from pandemic highs on the heels of demand/growth concerns, WFH waning, and a handful of execution issues (treadmill debacle), we believe there will be a handful of technology and consumer brand stalwarts circling for a potential bid with activists also pushing a sale. For Cook & Co, acquiring Peloton would be a major strategic coup and catalyze the company's aggressive health and fitness initiatives over the coming years. With ~2.8 million paid subscriptions today and a very strong/unique competitive moat, Apple acauiring Peloton would be both an offensive and defensive acauisition in our opinion.

Apple vs. Amazon/Nike/Disney for Peloton potentially in the cards. On the defensive front, if Peloton was acquired by Amazon or Nike this would propel the winning bidder on the health and fitness front as well as gain a major foothold into the living rooms of consumers globally. With the Peloton bike and roughly 3 million subscriptions in tow, cross-selling other consumer services into the Peloton ecosystem would make a ton of strategic sense for the likes of Disney. Nike, Amazon or Apple. Within the walls of Cupertino the prospects of another stalwart getting their hands on Peloton would be a business model risk for its healthcare segment and future endeavors. On the offensive front. Apple through its Fitness + subscription service and Apple Watch strategy would be able to leverage the Peloton services and flywheel to significantly bulk up its healthcare initiatives which have been a key strategic linchpin for Cook. Clearly Apple is not an acquisitive company and outside of its Beats acquisition in 2014 for \$3.2 billion has been very shy and hesitant to head down the M&A path historically speaking given the Cupertino DNA

Peloton a unique asset and customer base in a crowded landscape. Peloton would likely be an acquisition in the \$12 billion to \$15 billion range depending on timing/ competitive process in our opinion and be a very easy asset to digest into the Apple ecosystem with ~\$200 billion in the treasure chest and another strong FCF year ahead. We believe Peloton is a unique asset that would fit well into Apple's golden consumer ecosystem which makes us believe Cupertino could be a real bidder for this asset. Importantly, Apple may be forced into this deal if Amazon, Nike, or potentially Disney aggressively goes after Peloton in a defensive blocking strategic move. We look forward to hearing more about any updates on this potential process over the coming weeks/months with the Peloton sweepstakes having a ripple impact across the fitness/healthcare competitive environment for years to come if a formal/informal bidding process does kick off.

#### We maintain our OUTPERFORM and \$200 price target on Apple.

www.wedbush.com

Wedbush Securities does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports. Thus, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision. Please see pages 2–5 of this report for analyst certification and important

Page

### February 6, 2022

Wedbush issued a research report highlighting several reasons why Peloton would be a strong strategic fit for Apple

"For Cook & Co., acquiring Peloton would be a major strategic coup and catalyze the company's aggressive health and fitness initiatives over the coming years."

### C REUTERS

**Peloton surges on reports of buyout interest** from Amazon, Nike

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FILE PHOTO: A Peloton exercise bike is seen after the ringing of the opening bell for the company's IPO at the Nasdaq Market site in New York City

# POTENTIAL STRATEGIC ACQUIRORS FOR PELOTON

		PTON Subscriber Base Valuable	Existing Health & Fitness Business	Cost Synergies	Can Lower Cost of Customer Acq.	Complementary Hardware / Wearables	Ability to Sell Additional Products
	adidas	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
D "	BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC.	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	✓
Sporting Goods	🕖 lululemon	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	✓
<u>v</u>		✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	✓	$\checkmark$
	amazon	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	×	✓
	Meta	✓	×	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	✓
	Google	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	✓
Subscription	Disnep	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓
	COMCAST	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓
	FOX	$\checkmark$	×	✓	✓	×	$\checkmark$
Content and	VIACOMCBS	$\checkmark$	×	✓	✓	×	$\checkmark$
Conte	Discovery	✓	×	✓	✓	×	$\checkmark$
0	NETFLIX	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓
	Spotify <sup>.</sup>	✓	×	✓	✓	×	$\checkmark$
	(((SiriusXMi)))	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Technology	Ć	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
	SoftBank	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Techi	ORACLE	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓
· ·	SONY	✓	×	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	$\checkmark$

# FAIR VALUE FOR PELOTON IN A SALE IS AT LEAST \$65 PER SHARE

### **Illustrative Value of Peloton Using Myriad Valuation Metrics**



### **Key M&A Assumptions**

- 3.3 million Connected Fitness subscribers by FYE 6/30/23
- 1.3 million Digital subscribers by FYE 6/30/23
- Low End: Analysis applies the price per subscriber Google paid to acquire Fitbit in 2019 to the Connected Fitness subscriber base and applies a 25% discount to the same price per subscriber to the Digital subscriber base
- High End: Analysis applies the price per subscriber Lululemon paid to acquire Mirror to the Connected Fitness subscriber base and applies zero value to the Digital subscriber base

BLACKWELLS CAPITAL

# STRATEGIC BUYERS COULD EASILY PAY \$75 / SHARE

- At a \$75 per share purchase price, an acquisition of Peloton would be accretive to many strategic buyers with very modest cross-selling and penetration assumptions
- Amazon, for example, would need just 2.3% penetration of its Prime subscribers to make the acquisition accretive

	Subscribers	Conversion of Existing Subs Required for Value Accretion	Value Creation at 2.5% Penetration of Subscribers	Value Creation at 5% Penetration of Subscribers
NETFLIX	222 mm	1.3%	\$42 bn	\$84 bn
Spotify <sup>.</sup>	180 mm	0.3%	\$45 bn	\$91 bn
amazon Prime	172 mm	2.3%	\$24 bn	\$49 bn
Disnep+	118 mm	3.0%	\$18 bn	\$36 bn
HBOMAX	74 mm	5.2%	\$11 bn	\$21 bn
Paramount +	47 mm	20.6%	\$3 bn	\$5 bn
hulu	44 mm	8.1%	\$7 bn	\$14 bn
(((SiriusXM)))	35 mm	17.2%	\$3 bn	\$6 bn

PELOTON INTERACTIVE, INC.

# Conclusion

# CONCLUSION

## Urgent action is needed to protect shareholder value

Issue	Key Considerations	Action Item	When?
Peloton has been horribly mismanaged, with unbridled enthusiasm taking the place of disciplined leadership	<ul> <li>Failures to manage pricing, product safety, manufacturing capacity, capital allocation, real estate, SG&amp;A costs, productivity and culture</li> <li>Significant misalignment of interest between management and shareholders</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fire CEO, John Foley</li> <li>Fire CFO, Jill Woodworth</li> </ul>	<b>RIGHT NOW</b>
Peloton is worth significantly more to a strategic acquiror than as a standalone business, especially given the difficult turnaround ahead	<ul> <li>Standalone Peloton faces a hard road, especially given the complete loss of credibility of its management team with investors</li> <li>Meanwhile, strategic buyers in the media, technology, sporting goods and subscription businesses would find Peloton an attractive acquisitions, with many sources of synergy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Run strategic alternatives process</li> </ul>	<b>RIGHT NOW</b>
Peloton's controlling shareholders have lost the mandate to control the Company and its Board needs fresh perspectives	<ul> <li>Having lost \$40 billion of shareholder value in the last year, shareholders no longer want Mr. Foley to control the Company; his mandate has been eroded by poor performance</li> <li>The Board is too close to Mr. Foley and shareholders would welcome fresh directors, selected with the input of public market shareholders</li> <li>Governance should be improved to provide better accountability</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Eliminate dual-class voting</li> <li>Change Board composition</li> <li>Improve governance</li> </ul>	<b>RIGHT NOW</b>

## SHAREHOLDERS DESERVE MORE INFORMATION

Blackwells has submitted a formal demand to inspect Peloton's books and records for the following purposes:

- Investigating possible breaches of fiduciary duty, mismanagement, and other violations of law by members of the Company's Board and management in connection with:
- Testing the veracity of the statements of Directors and Officers concerning revenue, profits, and inventory
- Testing the propriety of the Company's public disclosures regarding safety of its Tread and Tread+ products
- Investigating Mr. Foley's and Ms. Foley's suitability for office

### Blackwells' Demand to Inspect Peloton's Books and Records



## BW BLACKWELLS CAPITAL

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