

Blue Bird Corp (NASDAQ: BLBD)

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Market Data as of December 1, 2023

Investment Summary

Leading School Bus OEM in the Early Innings of a Major Inflection Point

Business Overview

- Blue Bird Corp ("Blue Bird") is the only pure-play school bus OEM in North America focused on the manufacturing and sale of Type A, C, and D school buses
- Blue Bird sells diesel, gasoline, propane, CNG and electric school buses ("ESBs") with an increasing percentage of sales coming from the alternative power buses segment (gas, propane, CNG, and electric)

Investment Thesis

Why Is This a Good Business?

- Blue Bird holds a 30% market share in an oligopolistic industry with high barriers to entry. Blue Bird has the most thorough distribution network of parts and sales dealers in states with the highest EV adoption rates, which allows it to command a premium in prices for ESBs
- Blue Bird stands to benefit as the first-mover and largest competitor in the school bus electrification market, given its largely untapped and higher margin segment with record levels of government funding supportive of increased demand over the next 5 years

What Is The Market Missing?

- The company is poised to reach a meaningful inflection point whereby price increases in their contracts will begin to flow through the top-line
- We believe Blue Bird is poised to benefit from a combination of government funding supporting the ESB adoption, fruition of already stretched replacement cycles, and a reduction in legacy backlog with more favorable pricing on new orders

We recommend YUSIF BUY Blue Bird with an implied upside of ~40%



Business Overview

Blue Bird is a Leading North American School Bus OEM

Blue Bird Business Model

- Blue Bird is a leading manufacturer of school buses, involved in the production and sale of Type A, C, and D school buses and related replacement components
- They are widely recognized as the market leader in alternative fuel technologies, with electric and propane school buses representing ~51% of total buses revenue versus ~10-20% for competitors
- They sell their buses and parts to school districts, fleet operators, and private institutions in the U.S. (91%) and Canada (9%)
 - This is done through an extensive network of over 50 U.S. and Canadian dealers and more than 250 service centers
- The company operates through two main segments, Buses and Parts, with Buses split in 2 categories:
 - Diesel Bus (35%): Sale of diesel-powered school buses to U.S. and Canadian dealers
 - Alternative Power Buses (51%): Sale of buses that do not operate on diesel; this includes propane, CNG, electric, and gasoline operated buses
 - Parts (9%): Sales of replacement bus parts to compensate for parts that are damaged in service or suffer from wear and tear
 - Other (5%): This segment includes shipping and handling revenue, extended warranty income, surcharges, chassis, and bus shell sales

Other 9.0% 9.0% Diesel Buses 35% \$1.1B

LTM Revenue Segmentation

Historical Revenue and EBITDA Margin

Buses

51.0%



Management







Phil Horlock Britton Smith

Kevin Penn Ra

Razvan	
Radulescu	

Position	CEO	President	Chairman	CFO
Tenure	2023 -	2023 -	2016 -	2021 -
	Present	Present	Present	Present



Business Overview

Blue Bird Offers an Expansive Range of Products with a Dedicated Dealer Network

School Buses Product Portfolio



- **U.S Government/Specialty Sales:** Sells custom buses through its U.S. GSA contract to the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (account for ~2% of bus sales in 2022)
 - In addition to the GSA specifications, Blue Bird offers various vehicle sizes, power choices, and optional features to meet specific needs
- International: Sells Type C and D buses in limited global geographies through assigned dealers





5-Year Share Price Performance

Recent Stock Recovery Due to Post-COVID Demand Stabilization

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BLUE BIRE



Stock Chart

Source(s): Company Filings, Capital IQ

Dollar values in USD thousands

Industry Overview

Industry Growth Driven by Pent-Up Demand From Pandemic and Aging Fleet

School buses are North America's largest mass student transportation system (515k+ buses in operation transporting 26M+ kids on a daily basis)

Large Fleet of School Buses Results in Recurring Replacement Revenue (NA Class 6-7 School Bus Sales)

515k+ buses in the existing fleet, each with a typical useful life of 12-13 years results in sales being driven from replacement cycles



31,000 new buses have been sold each year on average between 1985 – 2022, these sales are almost entirely driven off replacement

Forecasted Industry Growth – Annual U.S. Class 6-7 School Bus Sales (Management Guidance)

- Volume is expected to compound at a 10% CAGR from 2023-2027
 - Pent up demand for school bus replacement due to subdued spending during COVID-19; elevated property tax incomes have also increased school district budgets
 - Additional drivers include an increasing population of school aged children, aging industry fleet profiles, and recent enactment of federal funding programs





Industry Overview

Competitive Dynamics – Oligopolistic Industry with High Barriers to Entry

Competitive Dynamics

- The industry is dominated by three main players representing ~95% of the market: Blue Bird (the only pure-play competitor), Thomas Built Buses, and IC Bus
- The oligopolistic nature of the industry is due to significant barriers to entry:
 - Specialized Products: Significant capital and expertise needed to manufacture school buses makes the industry highly unattractive for new entrants
 - Regulations: School buses require unique manufacturing, given increased safety standards that vary from the federal, state, and municipal level
 - Ex: Some states require different types of seatbelts, others require none
 - "There is a federal specification for school buses, there's a state specification for school buses, then there's a local specification... making it an absolute nightmare for anybody to enter into." – Former General Counsel of Blue Bird
 - Existing Customer and Dealer Relationships: Customers make purchasing decisions based on (1) cost, (2) relationships with OEMs, and (3) relationships with dealers
 - Existing relationships between dealers and OEMs makes it challenging for new players to secure customers (ex. Blue Bird has exclusivity contracts with dealers that limit competition and has held these relationships for 32 years on average)
 - Little incentive for major automotive OEMs to compete due to small market size

Overview of Blue Bird Competitors



- US-Based OEM for school buses (5 models), commercial transport (4 models), and manufacturing chassis for front and rear-end engine modules
 - Subsidiary of Daimler-Benz; previously partnered with Proterra to provide powertrain components



- Manufacturer of school and city buses (2 models), and commercial buses (1 model)
- Wholly owned subsidiary of Navistar International; acquired by Volkswagen in 2021
- Produces ~11K buses annually in its Tulsa, Oklahoma facility



- Canada-based OEM specializing in all-electric school buses (Type A, C, D), urban transit buses, and urban trucks
- Went public via de-SPAC (NYSE:LEV) in 2021 for \$320M at a pre-money valuation of \$1.6B





Industry Overview – Value Chain

BLUE BIRD

How are School Buses Sourced, Manufactured, and Sold?



Business Quality of Blue Bird

Market Leader of School Bus OEMs

- Blue Bird is the only publicly traded **pure-play school bus OEM** with **pricing power over ESBs**, and operates as a market leader (~30% market share) in an oligopoly
 - Blue Bird's history dates back to 1927 as one of the oldest bus manufacturers and has cumulatively sold over 592k buses
 - Proven track record in the rapidly growing, higher margin alternative fuel (propane and electric) buses segment
 - Sole manufacturer with chassis and body production specifically designed for school bus applications in the U.S. Also, Blue Bird is the only school bus company to offer compliance with industry recognized safety tests—as a standard specification across the product line
- 2 Competitively Advantaged Product Quality and First Mover Advantage: While the school bus industry is mature, the industry is undergoing an upgrade cycle towards ESBs; Blue Bird is a leader in the alternative fuel buses market, specifically ESBs, and is thus well positioned to benefit from the cycle
 - Electric: Blue Bird is the first major bus manufacturer to market and sell EV buses and has expanded production capacity to meet the rapidly growing demand
 - Propane: Started production in 2012 with an exclusive agreement with Ford to sell Type C buses; in 2017, Blue Bird introduced the 'NOx' propane engine which is 4x cleaner than current standards and superior to competitors' offerings
 - □ CNG: First OEM to introduce a CNG powered Type D bus

Competitively Advantaged Distribution Network

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Blue Bird has an extensive network of over 70 dealer locations across the U.S. and Canada with an average tenure of more than 32 years. These distributors do not sell competing Type C or Type D school bus products in the areas assigned to them by Blue Bird which provides significant **barriers to entry**

Blue Bird benefits from secular trends such as aging fleets, an upgrade cycle towards ESBs, pent-up COVID demand, and growing population of school-aged students



Business Quality of Blue Bird (Cont.)

Blue Bird's Dealer Network is More Expansive Than Competitors and Provides Pricing Power

Survey data finds that 95% of dealers have been selling school buses for 16+ years; 30% of dealers offer just 1 school bus brand, and 95% offer 3 or less. Blue Bird has 70 dealer locations in NA that, on average, have been working with the company for 32 years



Blue Bird leads the industry with a competitively advantaged dealer network – none of its dealers sell competing type C or D buses in their localities and are usually well-known in their areas





IC and Thomas's dealer networks spans several locations (inclusive of truck networks) across the U.S. and Canada. However, neither competitor possesses exclusivity in contracts with dealerships, which simultaneously market other products and service and maintenance parts

Strong Presence in States With The Largest School Bus Fleets

Blue Bird possesses the most extensive school bus dealer network in the industry (note that IC and Thomas's dealerships also sell their commercial buses)

In U.S. states with the highest EV adoption, Blue Bird has the highest number of sales and parts dealers (on average)

Blue Bird has Greater Pricing Power over ESBs:

A sample of electric school bus sales in 2023 shows that Blue Bird's

Type C ESBs are priced 5% above peer average, while Blue Bird's Type D ESBs are priced 5% to 10% higher than its Type C models



OEM Dealership # of Locations





Source(S): Company Filings, Barclays ER

Note: For dealership data, Thomas and IC dealerships also sell their commercial buses whereas Blue Bird is the sole school bus operator

Business Quality (Cont.)

Margin Expansion Opportunity via ESBs

Higher Delta Between Price vs. Cost for ESBs Will Result in Margin Expansion

- From the perspective of OEMs, ESBs tend to be higher margin when compared to legacy Diesel, Gas, and CNG buses
- The cost to manufacture an ESB is estimated to be less than 2x the cost to manufacture the most expensive diesel school bus (assuming \$500 / kWh at 100 kWh on a Blue Bird ESB); ESBs are priced 3x 4x higher than diesel alternatives, providing a significant opportunity for margin expansion as alternative fueled buses become a greater % of total buses sold by Blue Bird
- Input costs of EVs are expected to drop over the coming years as adoption ramps, further reinforcing this margin expansion story
- As the first-mover, Blue Bird will benefit from delivering more ESBs than its competitors, establishing its footprint in this rapidly growing market



Historical Prices of EV Batteries





Thesis I: Fiscal Policy Providing Significant Tailwind

EPA's Clean Bus Program Will Support Demand for Alternative Fuel Buses

Overview of EPA's Clean Bus Program

- Electric school buses range in price from \$350,000 \$450,000, 3x to 4x as much as a traditional diesel bus—many school districts cannot afford the upfront expense despite the long-term savings of using electric buses
- With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Clean Bus Program provides \$5B of funding (from FY'22 – FY'26) to replace fleets with low-emission electric school buses
 - School districts receive up to \$375,000 in funding to replace a diesel bus with an electric one
 - Offers an additional \$20,000 for charging infrastructure, for a total of up to \$395,000 per electric bus purchased
- A cost-benefit analysis shows that choosing an electric bus over a traditional diesel one would save a purchaser ~\$6,070 per seat per bus

Clean Bus Program Replacement Provisions

School	Replacement Bus Fuel Type and Size											
District Status	ZE – Class 7	ZE – Class 3-6	CNG – Class 7+	CNG – Class 3-6	Propane – Class 7+	Propane – Class 3-6						
Meets 1 or more eligibility criteria	\$375,000	\$285,000	\$45,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$25,000						
Other eligible school districts	\$250,000	\$190,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000						

EPA Funds to Flow to High Propensity Buyers

EPA funds have thus far flowed towards high-need and low-income school districts, with ~\$65M of funds deployed

Percent of Districts That Have Expressed Intent to Purchase ESBs



Blue Bird Benefits as the Market Leader

The rollout of the EPA's \$5B Clean School Bus program, in addition to state-level subsidies, and corporate programs drives the adoption of higher margin electric school bus fleets, in which Blue Bird has the first-mover advantage

"We continue to be the clear leader in this space. No other manufacturer comes close to these numbers."

Phillip Horlock, CEO



Thesis I: Fiscal Policy Providing Significant Tailwind (Cont.)

YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENT INVESTMENT FUND

State-Level Support has led to significant Growth of Electric Buses With Significant Runway

State-Level Subsidies and Programs Supporting Demand Alongside the EPA



EPA launches phase 1/5 of 5,424 5,550 5,792 \$5B Clean Bus program WV Settlement & HVIP funding spend on ESBs ramps 2,659 2,848 2,998 California Energy Commission 1,802 2,034 2,227 approves \$70M in funding for 220+ ESBs 1,351 966 928 763 824 718 532 269 240 180 203 103 106 115 79 85

Q1'17 Q2'17 Q3'17 Q4'17 Q1'18 Q2'18 Q3'18 Q4'18 Q1'19 Q2'19 Q3'19 Q4'19 Q1'20 Q2'20 Q3'20 Q4'20 Q1'21 Q2'21 Q3'21 Q4'21 Q1'22 Q2'22 Q3'22 Q4'22 Q1'23 Q2'23

EV commitments have grown substantially since 2017 with significant runway still ahead; average # of Diesel buses sold annually sits at around 30,000 (based on 30% market share for Blue Bird)



Thesis II: Inflection Point of Margins & Significant Demand Drivers

Downwards Pressure of Steel Prices, Fulfillment of Legacy Backlog, and Upcoming Replacement Cycles

Normalization of Steel Prices + Supply Chain

- Consecutive quarters of 50-250% YoY steel price inflation and supply chain issues resulted in 6 to 12-month production delays and significantly impacted volumes and margins for Blue Bird in both 2021 and 2022
 - Hot roll steel prices sit at \$853 / ton (Nov 2023) down ~55% from \$2000+ / ton highs in 2021
- Blue Bird hiked prices to mitigate impact of steel inflation, the increases began flowing in Q2 and will continue to do so as they work through their backlog
- Despite having pricing power over customers, Blue Bird's pricing was impacted by contracts that they signed in 2021 and 2022 that they were not able to fulfill under normal production timelines (3-6 months) given supply chain headwinds. This caused a substantial buildup of backlog with old pricing
 - Production has normalized and Blue Bird has put through price increases which will begin to flow through their top line as the legacy backlog will have been entirely fulfilled by Q3'23



Legacy Backlog Fulfilled, Inflection of Margins

Upcoming Replacement Cycles

- Fleet replacement is nearing a maturity which will guarantee higher revenue levels for OEM school bus manufacturers in the coming years
- Very attractive inflection point given that replacements will be accompanied by subsidies and government programs bolstering demand towards higher margin alternative fuel buses



Boston Public Schools Head of Transportation



Thesis III: New Management Poised to Turnaround Blue Bird

Re-Appointment of Former CEO and Recent Turnaround Initiatives are Promising

Blue Bird's Management History



Phil Horlock (CEO May 2023 – Present) Previous term 2011 – 2021

- Scaled the number of propane buses from 146 units sold in 2011 to >1,000 sold in 2019
- Cost-cutting through placing >85% of material purchases on long-term contracts
- Replaced underperforming dealers, representing 20% of the network
- Continues to buy more shares, increasing his position from 200k to 500k shares (1.5% ownership)



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Matt Stevenson (Former CEO 2021 – 2023)
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- High employee turnover, with all but one Vice President resigning from the company
- Sold out of most of ~200k shares while still CEO, with <0.1% ownership
- Resigned following unionization of Blue Bird workers in May, without realizing any performance based RSUs

Negative TSR History Prior to Horlock Rejoining



Returns on Capital Bouncing Back with Horlock





Thesis III: New Management Poised to Turnaround Blue Bird (Cont.)

Re-Appointment of Former CEO and Recent Turnaround Initiatives are Promising

Conversations With Former Corporate Treasurer & GC Illustrate Mismanagement Under Matt Stevenson

"He (Matt Stevenson) came in and he had a <u>reputation for bringing out the management team and setting his own</u>... it was a lot about making quick decisions. And <u>sometimes he didn't recognize kind of the harm he could cause.</u> When he wanted to move forward, he just wanted to move forward and then he would figure it out. That was his style...

...There's a lot of marketing there. If you look at his resume, he <u>comes from a marketing background. So, I think perception is a</u> <u>lot to him. It means a lot to him</u>. And I'll tell you just my personal experience... during the pandemic, there that we had there been this microchip in an antilock braking system, and we talked about it publicly in our earnings announcement that there was a shortage of this...

...And the other parts were coming in, and my role was General Counsel and Treasurer, and I walked into his office and said, look, I understand we have to honor the firm purchase orders that we had taken. And we've done that. <u>I need you to stop taking the</u> other parts now because we've got too much inventory, too many engines, too many transmissions, not enough braking systems. We can't use them...

...he looked at me like I was crazy. 'Why are you telling me this? Just go find the money, I'm going to hold this inventory.' And that was the reason for me to start looking for a job."

Recent Management Turnaround Initiatives

- The past 2 quarters have shown evidence of a significant improvement in operations and aligns with Blue Bird's long-term objectives
- Strategic Changes to Management:
 - Bolstered commitment to scaling EVs by appointing the former Head of EV Business Britton Smith as President of Blue Bird
 - Julia Fream, CEO and President of a 500+ member trade association appointed to the Board of Directors in October 2023
 - Further potential in negotiating supplier contracts
- Manufacturing Enhancements:
 - Ramping EV throughput from 2 ESBs per day (Q2 2023) to 20 ESBs per day (year-end 2023)
 - □ Focus on margin expansion by:
 - New steel buying strategy with locked in contracts up to 12 months to reduce pricing volatility
 - Clear path to reduce hours per bus by 25% in 2025



The Bear Case (What Could Go Wrong?)

Risk of Realization of Future Revenues and Potential Lack of Capacity to Grow

Risks: Potential Downward Pressure On The Stock

Lower Aftermarket Revenues

EVs have fewer moving parts in the engine, fuel system, and braking systems compared to traditional ICE vehicles, resulting in lower ability to realize additional revenue from parts

Unionization of Plant Employees

Blue Bird's plant employees voted in favor of unionization by United Steelworkers; unionization may result in margin pressure on wages and could potentially negatively impact plant processes

Staggered Board

Blue Bird classifies its directors into 3 categories each serving 3-year terms ending in different years, the staggered nature of this board may pose concerns over governance

Source(s): Company Filings, S&P Capital IQ, Investor Presentation, Environmental Protection Agency

Mitigations: Internal & External Tailwinds Support

The percentage of ESBs out of the total fleet will not be mature enough to have a significant impact over our investment horizon of 3 to 5 years; it is our view, that diesel buses will continue to realize aftermarket revenues

Blue Bird emphasizes wanting to establish a collaborative relationship with the Union. Production has been largely unaffected to-date: "*Despite taking downtime due to the Union election activities in this quarter, the team has continued doing a fantastic job and generated 2,137-unit sales volume, which was 411 or 24% higher than prior year*" –Q3'23 Earnings Call

Re-appointment of Phil Horlock provides us with more faith in the company's overall approach to governance; Phil has been more receptive and willing to cooperate with investor groups in the past (Coliseum Capital Management). We will continue to monitor this

Catalysts: How Our Thesis Are Realized Over The Short, Medium, & Long-Term

1	2	3
EPA Phase III Timeline	FY'2024 and Q1'2024 Earnings	Future EPA Subsidy Announcements
\$600M EPA Phase III timeline expected to be announced by the end of 2023; we expect this will attract investor attention towards Blue Bird	Legacy backlog will be extinguished, and current higher priced contracts will begin to flow through Blue Bird's topline; 2-year lows in steel prices will be reflected margins	\$400M EPA Phase II program timeline from application to orders is May 2023 – March 2024; remaining Phase II grants to be announced; future subsidies will positively impact Blue Bird's share price
Time Horizon: 1 Month	Time Horizon: 1 - 4 Months	Time Horizon: 12 Months+

RILIE RIRD

Governance

Blue Bird reappoints Philip Horlock and recent board exit by Coliseum Capital Management

Management and Board Makeup

- The company classifies its directors into three categories which each serve three-year terms: Class 1 directors with terms expiring in 2024 AGM; Class 2 directors with terms expiring at the 2024 AGM and Class 3 with terms expiring in the 2023 AGM which includes CEO Philip Horlock
 - Kevin Penn serves as chairman of the board and Philip Horlock as CEO
- The board consists of 10 directors with prior experience at large corporations such as Ford Motor, Albertsons, and Private Equity and American Securities
 - 8 out of the 10 directors are independent
 - Director compensation includes fees and stock awards
- Current CEO Philip Horlock served as CEO from 2011-2021 and returned in May 2023—he has led Blue Bird through operational improvements, expanding Propane bus sales, continues to buy more shares and is favoured by all management
- Adam Gray—Managing Director at Coliseum Capital Management—previously held a board seat and owned a >5% position in the stock and recently stepped down from the board being replaced by Julie Fream

Compensation Structure

Name and										All other		
Principal		Salary (\$)	Bo	nus (\$)	Sto	ck Awards (\$)Opt	tion Awards (\$)	Cor	mpensaion (\$)		Total (\$)
Position												
Philip Horlock	hilip Horlock, President and Chief Executive Officer											
2022	\$	200,000							\$	406,020	\$	15,830,864
2021	\$	720,000			\$	3,185,336	\$	1,501,127	\$	18,500	\$	7,871,441
2020	\$	786,666			\$	869,154	\$	312,802	\$	50,408	\$	28,335,854
Matthew Stev	enso	n, President ar	nd Chief	Executive	Off	icer ⁽¹⁾						
2022	\$	491,667			\$	260,400	\$	499,992	\$	12,722	\$	843,122
2021	\$	400,000							\$	39,458	\$	338,478
Razvan Radul	lescu	, Chief Financia	al Office	ər								
2022	\$	433,125	\$	100,000	\$	219,656	\$	29,878	\$	203,355	\$	986,014
2021	\$	18,750										
Ted Scartz, S	VP ar	nd General Cou	unsel									
2022	\$	105,231	\$	75,000	\$	71,245			\$	30,118	\$	281,594
Paul Yousif, S	VP a	nd General Co	unsel ⁽²⁾									
2022	\$	133,900		2000					\$	2,471	\$	138,371
2021	\$	231,499			\$	19,894	\$	22,340	\$	5,044	\$	278,777
2020	\$	235,719			\$	51,886	\$	55,829	\$	9,726	\$	353,160

- Short and long-term compensation constitute most of the executive pay; during 2022, as part of the 'Blue Bird turnaround plan' the executive team voluntarily agreed to a reduction in base salaries
- Short and long-term incentives: based on Adjusted EBITDA⁽³⁾
 - Short-term incentives include a cash bonus
 - Long-term incentive include grants of stock options and RSUs based on short term incentives



Source(s): Company Filings

^{1.} Resigned in May 2023

^{2.} Resigned in 2022

Valuation Summary





Perpetuity Growth										
Cumulative PV of FCF	208,654									
% of Enterprise Value	21%									
<u>Terminal Value</u>										
Final Year UFCF	65,260									
Perpetuity Growth Rate	2.0%									
Terminal Value	1,109,419									
PV of Terminal Value	799,916									
% of Enterprise Value	79%									
Enterprise Value	1,008,571									
(-) Net Debt	(99,000)									
Total Equity Value	909,571									
FDSO	32,146									
Implied Share Price	\$28.29									
Current Share Price	\$18.75									
Implied Upside	50.9%									

Exit Multiple	
Cumulative PV of FCF	208,654
% of Enterprise Value	24%
<u>Terminal Value</u>	
FY27 EBITDA	102,385
Exit EBITDA Multiple	9.0x
Terminal Value	921,462
PV of Terminal Value	664,395
% of Enterprise Value	76%
Total Enterprise Value	873,049
(-) Net Debt	(99,000)
Total Equity Value	774,049
DSO	32,146
Implied Share Price	\$24.08
Current Share Price	\$18.75
Implied Upside	28.4%

			Perp	etuity Growth	n Rate					Exit	EBITDA Mul	tiple	
		1 .0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	-		7.0x	8.0x	9.0x	10.0x	11.0x
	7.0%	\$29.20	\$31.67	\$34.63	\$38.25	\$42.78	-	7.0%	\$20.29	\$22.68	\$25.07	\$27.46	\$29.85
	7.5%	\$26.69	\$28.74	\$31.17	\$34.09	\$37.66		7.5%	\$19.88	\$22.23	\$24.57	\$26.91	\$29.25
WACC	8.0%	\$24.53	\$26.27	\$28.29	\$30.69	\$33.56	WACC	8.0%	\$19.49	\$21.78	\$24.08	\$26.38	\$28.67
	8.5%	\$22.66	\$24.15	\$25.86	\$27.86	\$30.21		8.5%	\$19.10	\$21.35	\$23.60	\$25.85	\$28.11
	9.0%	\$21.03	\$22.31	\$23.77	\$25.46	\$27.42		9.0%	\$18.72	\$20.93	\$23.14	\$25.34	\$27.55
			Porp	atuity Growth	Pata					Evit	EDITDA Mul	tinlo	

			i cip	cially Grown	Indic				Exit EBIT DA multiple				
		1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%			7.0x	8.0x	9.0x	10.0x	11.0x
	7.0%	55.7%	68.9%	84.7%	104.0%	128.1%	-	7.0%	8.2%	21.0%	33.7%	46.4%	59.2%
	7.5%	42.3%	53.3%	66.3%	81.8%	100.8%		7.5%	6.0%	18.5%	31.0%	43.5%	56.0%
WACC	8.0%	30.8%	40.1%	50.9%	63.7%	79.0%	WACC	8.0%	3.9%	16.2%	28.4%	40.7%	52.9%
	8.5%	20.9%	28.8%	37.9%	48.6%	61.1%		8.5%	1.9%	13.9%	25.9%	37.9%	49.9%
	9.0%	12.2%	19.0%	26.8%	35.8%	46.3%		9.0%	(0.2%)	11.6%	23.4%	35.2%	46.9%



Appendices



DCF: Projections

Intrinsic Valuation

					Histo	ricals			Forecast		
	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	LTM	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
In Thousands (USD) - September 30 year-end											
Total Revenue	1,024,976	1,018,874	879,221	683,995	800,637	1,087,502	1,176,618	1,286,562	1,386,584	1,480,860	1,572,917
% Growth	3.5%	(0.6%)	(13.7%)	(22.2%)	17.1%	35.8%	47.0%	9.3%	7.8%	6.8%	6.2%
Gross Profit:											
Buses Gross Profit	100,002	110,015	76,059	50,394	5,065	39,319	82,800	113,125	134,046	156,204	173,100
% Margin	10.7%	12.2%	9.8%	8.5%	0.7%	4.1%	8.0%	10.0%	11.0%	12.0%	12.5%
Parts & Other Gross Profit	21,986	23,459	20,141	21,747	31,481	45,136	46,734	45,041	43,676	44,790	47,029
% Margin	23.9%	20.3%	20.1%	23.6%	27.0%	32.6%	33.0%	29.0%	26.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Total Gross Profit	121.988	133.474	96.200	72.141	36.546	84.455	129.534	158.166	177.722	200.994	220.129
Margin (%)	11.9%	13.1%	10.9%	10.5%	4.6%	7.8%	11.0%	12.3%	12.8%	13.6%	14.0%
Operating Expenses:											
SG&A	86.911	89.642	74,206	65.619	77.246	85.015	102.198	111.748	120.435	128.624	136.620
% of Revenue	8.5%	8.8%	8.4%	9.6%	9.6%	7.8%	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%
Total Operating Expenses	86,911	89,642	74,206	65,619	77,246	85,015	102,198	111,748	120,435	128,624	136,620
Operating Income	35,077	43,832	21,994	6,522	(40,700)	(560)	27,336	46,418	57,287	72,370	83,510
Margin (%)	3.4%	4.3%	2.5%	1.0%	(5.1%)	(0.1%)	2.3%	3.6%	4.1%	4.9%	5.3%
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	(2,620)	7,573	1,519	(1,191)	(11,451)	(4,842)	6,014	10,212	12,603	15,921	18,372
Tax Rate	n.m.	17.3%	6.9%	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%
NOPAT	37,697	36,259	20,475	7,713	(29,249)	4,282	21,322	36,206	44,684	56,449	65,137
Margin (%)	3.7%	3.6%	2.3%	1.1%	(3.7%)	0.4%	1.8%	2.8%	3.2%	3.8%	4.1%
(+) Depreciation and Amortization	9.042	10 383	14 400	13 446	14.050	16.038	17 649	19 298	18 026	17 770	18 875
% of Revenue	0.9%	1.0%	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%
(-) Increase in NWC	(14,497)	(8,068)	28,938	62,179	(17,497)	(66,214)	(65,170)	(18,170)	(20,227)	(13,057)	(4,841)
(-) CapEx	32.118	35.514	18.968	12.212	6.453	8.095	23.532	24.445	24.959	25.175	23.594
% of Revenue	3.1%	3.5%	2.2%	1.8%	0.8%	0.7%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%
UFCF	29,118	19,196	(13,031)	(53,232)	(4,155)	78,439	20,152	49,230	57,978	62,101	65,260
Discount Period							0.25	1.25	2.25	3.25	4.25
Discount Rate							8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
PV of UFCF							19,768	44,714	48,760	48,358	47,054



DCF: Assumptions

Intrinsic Valuation

Revenue

- Projected Diesel and Alternative Fuel revenues based on forecasted units; took a substantial discount to the units projected by management to be conservative
 - Mgmt. Guidance on long-term Diesel and Alternative Fuel units sit at 12,000 and 7,000 respectively, YUSIF's projections reach 8,800 and 2,400 by FY'27
- □ FY'23 revenue growth projections for Parts and Other revenue sit in line with LTM levels, we project low double digit to high single-digit growth thereafter slowing overtime to 6% and 3% respectively

Cost Structure and CapEx Projections

- Assumed gross margin expansion for buses as ESBs scale to comprise a higher % of sales; gross profit margins for FY'23 and FY'24 sit at 11.0% and 12.3% vs consensus at 12.0% and 13.2%
 - FY'27 gross profit margins for buses sits at 12.5%—slightly above 2019 levels
- □ SG&A projected in line with historical levels
- FY'23 CapEx projected in line with management guidance; assumed 1% maintenance capex with a modest spread for growth thereafter; Blue Bird's facility is expected to have reached the ability to output 20 EVs (5,000 annually) by the end of FY'23, limiting the need for future growth capex

NWC Projections

□ Inventory days outstanding reached a high of ~75 days in FY'21 and currently sits at 47 days LTM; we projected this normalizing to 27.5 days (in line with historicals) in the terminal year

Terminal Value Assumptions

- 8% WACC represents YUSIF's hurdle rate
- 2% perpetuity growth rate in line with long-term GDP growth rate
- 9.0x terminal multiple on EBITDA in line with how the company has historically traded, this represents a slight premium to ER and our peer group median of ~8.0x—we believe the company deserves to trade at a slight premium given their market leadership over ESBs



DCF: Revenue Buildout

Revenue Build

					Histor	icals			Forecast		
	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	LTM	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
In Thousands (USD) - September 30 year-end											
Revenue:											
Buses Segment:											
# of Diesel Units	11,646	11,017	8,878	6,679	6,822	n.a.	8,400	8,500	8,600	8,700	8,800
% Growth	2.9%	(5.4%)	(19.4%)	(24.8%)	2.1%	-	23.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%
Average Selling Price per Unit	50.6	43.3	44.8	43.6	40.5	n.a.	48	51	51	51	51
% Growth	(4.5%)	(14.4%)	3.4%	(2.6%)	(7.1%)	-	18.5%	5.2%	1.0%	-	-
Diesel Buses Revenue	588,863	476,909	397,567	291,203	276,395	303,333	403,200	429,250	438,600	443,700	448,800
% Growth	(1.8%)	(19.0%)	(16.6%)	(26.8%)	(5.1%)	9.7%	45.9%	6.5%	2.2%	1.2%	1.1%
# of Alternative Powered Units	1,032	1,075	1,037	830	1,069	n.a.	1,620	1,800	2,000	2,200	2,400
% Growth	4.1%	4.2%	(3.5%)	(20.0%)	28.8%	-	51.5%	11.1%	11.1%	10.0%	9.1%
Average Selling Price per Unit	333	397	368	362	381	n.a.	390	390	390	390	390
% Growth	9.9%	19.0%	(7.3%)	(1.5%)	5.2%	-	2.3%	-	-	-	-
Alternative Powered Buses Revenue	344,021	426,508	381,555	300,706	407,599	645,781	631,800	702,000	780,000	858,000	936,000
% Growth	14.4%	24.0%	(10.5%)	(21.2%)	35.5%	58.4%	55.0%	11.1%	11.1%	10.0%	9.1%
Total Buses Revenue	932,884	903,417	779,122	591,909	683,994	949,114	1,035,000	1,131,250	1,218,600	1,301,700	1,384,800
% Growth	3.6%	(3.2%)	(13.8%)	(24.0%)	15.6%	38.8%	51.3%	9.3%	7.7%	6.8%	6.4%
Other:											
Other Revenue	31,900	50,906	45,191	34,875	41,858	46,359	48,137	52,950	56,922	59,768	61,561
% Growth	(2.1%)	59.6%	(11.2%)	(22.8%)	20.0%	10.8%	15.0%	10.0%	7.5%	5.0%	3.0%
Total Other Revenue	31,900	50,906	45,191	34,875	41,858	46,359	48,137	52,950	56,922	59,768	61,561
% Growth	(2.1%)	59.6%	(11.2%)	(22.8%)	20.0%	10.8%	15.0%	10.0%	7.5%	5.0%	3.0%
Parts Segment:											
Parts Revenue	60,192	64,551	54,908	57,211	74,785	92,029	93,481	102,362	111,063	119,392	126,556
% Growth	3.9%	7.2%	(14.9%)	4.2%	30.7%	23.1%	25.0%	9.5%	8.5%	7.5%	6.0%
Total Parts Revenue	60,192	64,551	54,908	57,211	74,785	92,029	93,481	102,362	111,063	119,392	126,556
% Growth	3.9%	7.2%	(14.9%)	4.2%	30.7%	23.1%	25.0%	9.5%	8.5%	7.5%	6.0%
Total Revenue	1,024,976	1,018,874	879,221	683,995	800,637	1,087,502	1,176,618	1,286,562	1,386,584	1,480,860	1,572,917
% Growth	3.5%	(0.6%)	(13.7%)	(22.2%)	17.1%	35.8%	47.0%	9.3%	7.8%	6.8%	6.2%



DCF: NWC Schedule

				Historicals Forecast							
	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	LTM	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
n Thousands (USD) - September 30 year-end											
(-) Increase in NWC	(14,497)	(8,068)	28,938	62,179	(17,497)	(66,214)	(65,170)	(18,170)	(20,227)	(13,057)	(4,841)
Operating Current Assets											
Accounts Receivable Days Sales Outstanding	24,067 8.6	10,537 3.8	7,623 3.2	<mark>9,967</mark> 5.3	12,534 5.7	11,429 3.8	12,250 3.8	13,394 <i>3.8</i>	14,436 3.8	15,417 3.8	16,376 3.8
Inventory Inventory Days	57,333 23.2	78,830 32.5	56,523 26.3	125,206 74.7	142,977 68.3	129,169 47.0	114,749 <i>40.0</i>	108,202 <i>35.0</i>	99,359 <i>30.0</i>	96,428 27.5	101,922 27.5
Other Current Assets % of Revenue	8,183 <i>0.8%</i>	11,765 <i>1.</i> 2%	8,243 0.9%	9,191 1.3%	<mark>8,486</mark> 1.1%	9,614 <i>0.9%</i>	11,463 <i>1.0%</i>	12,534 <i>1.0%</i>	13,509 <i>1.0%</i>	14,427 <i>1.0%</i>	15,324 <i>1.0%</i>
Total Operating Current Assets	89,583	101,132	72,389	144,364	163,997	150,212	138,462	134,131	127,303	126,273	133,622
Operating Current Liabilities											
Accounts Payable Days Payable Outstanding	95,780.0 38.7	102,266.0 <i>4</i> 2.2	57,602.0 26.9	72,270.0 43.1	107,937.0 51.6	136,185.0 <i>4</i> 9.6	130,520.6 <i>45.5</i>	140,656.3 <i>45.5</i>	150,686.5 <i>45.5</i>	159,537.2 <i>45.5</i>	168,627.0 <i>4</i> 5.5
Accrued Expenses % of Revenue	21,935.0 2.1%	28,697.0 2.8%	15,773.0 <i>1.</i> 8%	12,267.0 <i>1.</i> 8%	16,386.0 2.0%	28,499.0 2.6%	28,308.9 <i>2.4%</i>	30,954.1 <i>2.4%</i>	33,360.5 <i>2.4%</i>	35,628.8 2.4%	37,843.6 <i>2.4%</i>
Other Current Liabilities % of Revenue	3,941.0 <i>0.4%</i>	10,310.0 <i>1.0%</i>	10,217.0 <i>1.</i> 2%	8,851.0 <i>1.3%</i>	6,195.0 <i>0.8%</i>	18,263.0 <i>1</i> .7%	11,323.5 <i>1.0%</i>	12,381.6 <i>1.0%</i>	13,344.2 <i>1.0%</i>	14,251.5 <i>1.0%</i>	15,137.4 <i>1.0%</i>
Total Operating Current Liabilities	121,656.0	141,273.0	83,592.0	93,388.0	130,518.0	182,947.0	170,152.9	183,992.0	197,391.2	209,417.5	221,608.0
NWC	(32,073.0)	(40,141.0)	(11,203.0)	50,976.0	33,479.0	(32,735.0)	(31,691.0)	(49,860.8)	(70,088.1)	(83,144.7)	(87,985.9)



Comparable Companies Analysis – Peer Group

Relative valuation

	Share	Equity	Enterprise	EV / Revenue		EV/EBITDA			P/E			
Company Name	Price (\$)	Value (\$M)	Value (\$M)	LTM	2023E	2024E	LTM	2023E	2024E	LTM	2023E	2024E
School Bus Comps												
Daimler Truck Holding AG	\$31.03	\$25,081	\$42,965	0.7x	0.7x	0.7x	6.9x	6.1x	6.5x	7.6x	6.3x	6.9x
Marcopolo S.A.	\$1.22	\$1,051	\$1,288	1.0x	0.9x	0.8x	7.1x	7.4x	6.4x	6.6x	8.7x	7.0x
REV Group, Inc.	\$15.68	\$930	\$1,136	0.4x	0.4x	0.4x	11.6x	7.8x	4.4x	38.3x	13.5x	9.5x
The Lion Electric Company	\$1.74	\$396	\$623	2.6x	2.2x	1.2x	n.m.	n.m.	2.4x	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
GreenPower Motor Company Inc.	\$3.03	\$76	\$89	1.6x	1.5x	0.9x	n.m.	n.m.	0.3x	n.m.	n.m.	n.m.
EV Parts Comps												
PACCAR Inc	\$90.67	\$47,594	\$53,161	1.6x	1.6x	1.7x	8.8x	9.8x	11.4x	11.6x	10.3x	12.3x
Allison Transmission Holdings, Inc.	\$54.24	\$4,854	\$6,840	2.3x	2.3x	2.3x	6.5x	6.4x	6.4x	7.5x	7.6x	7.6x
The Shyft Group, Inc.	\$11.58	\$397	\$521	0.5x	0.6x	0.6x	9.5x	12.4x	10.5x	13.8x	22.7x	24.5x
Cummins Inc.	\$222.98	\$31,772	\$38,078	1.1x	1.1x	1.2x	8.3x	7.5x	7.7x	11.4x	11.3x	11.8x
Blue Bird Corporation	\$18.75	\$601	\$687	0.6x	0.6x	0.6x	47.3x	7.6x	6.9x	(33.6x)	14.4x	11.8x
Minimum	\$1.22	\$76.20	\$88.95	0.4x	0.4x	0.4x	6.5x	6.1x	0.3x	6.6x	6.3x	6.9x
25th Percentile	\$3.03	\$397.08	\$623.12	0.7x	0.7x	0.7x	7.0x	6.9x	4.4x	7.6x	8.2x	7.3x
Median	\$15.68	\$1,051.01	\$1,287.63	1.1x	1.1x	0.9x	8.3x	7.5x	6.4x	11.4x	10.3x	9.5x
75th Percentile	\$54.24	\$25,080.66	\$38,078.39	1.6x	1.6x	1.2x	9.1x	8.8x	7.7x	12.7x	12.4x	12.1x
Maximum	\$222.98	\$47,593.69	\$53,160.79	2.6x	2.3x	2.3x	11.6x	12.4x	11.4x	38.3x	22.7x	24.5x

	Growth (2024)		EBIT Margins			Returns			Leverage (Debt / EBITDA)		
Company Name	Revenue	EBIT	LTM	2023E	2024E	ROIC	ROA	ROE	LTM	2023E	
School Bus Comps											
Daimler Truck Holding AG	(3.3%)	(7.3%)	10.5%	11.6%	11.1%	6.9%	4.6%	15.5%	4.5x	3.9x	
Marcopolo S.A.	16.9%	15.9%	14.0%	12.6%	12.5%	8.8%	6.8%	24.8%	14.1x	14.5x	
REV Group, Inc.	3.2%	77.4%	3.8%	5.6%	9.7%	6.4%	3.3%	5.3%	2.2x	1.5x	
The Lion Electric Company	90.2%	852.4%	(23.8%)	(12.3%)	48.5%	(7.5%)	(6.1%)	(12.8%)	(4.7x)	(7.7x)	
GreenPower Motor Company Inc.	59.1%	3786.2%	(20.7%)	(12.0%)	277.3%	(19.2%)	(13.5%)	(55.6%)	(1.3x)	(2.1x)	
EV Parts Comps											
PACCAR Inc	(7.4%)	(14.0%)	17.7%	16.3%	15.2%	13.5%	10.3%	28.4%	2.1x	2.4x	
Allison Transmission Holdings, Inc.	0.8%	0.1%	35.1%	35.8%	35.5%	16.0%	11.7%	66.2%	2.4x	2.3x	
The Shyft Group, Inc.	3.8%	18.7%	5.6%	4.8%	5.5%	6.0%	4.3%	11.4%	2.4x	3.2x	
Cummins Inc.	(2.1%)	(2.7%)	13.8%	15.2%	15.1%	11.8%	7.3%	27.0%	1.8x	1.6x	
Blue Bird Corporation	3.5%	10.4%	1.3%	7.8%	8.3%	11.7%	0.0%	(110.4%)	9.4x	1.5x	
Maximum	90.2%	3786.2%	35.1%	35.8%	277.3%	16.0%	11.7%	66.2%	14.1x	14.5x	
75th Percentile	16.9%	77.4%	14.0%	15.2%	35.5%	11.8%	7.3%	27.0%	2.4x	3.2x	
Median	3.2%	15.9%	10.5%	11.6%	15.1%	6.9%	4.6%	15.5%	2.2x	2.3x	
25th Percentile	(2.1%)	(2.7%)	3.8%	4.8%	11.1%	6.0%	3.3%	5.3%	1.8x	1.5x	
Minimum	(7.4%)	(14.0%)	(23.8%)	(12.3%)	5.5%	(19.2%)	(13.5%)	(55.6%)	(4.7x)	(7.7x)	



Capital Structure and Float / Ownership

Capital Structure

Capital Structure (in Thousands USD)	
Stock Price	\$18.00
Basic Shares O/S Dilutives	32,146.3
FD Shares	32,146.3
Market Capitalization	\$578,633.9
Cash Cash from dilutives Debt Non-controlling interests	(\$50,497.0) - \$149,497.0 -
Investments in affiliates	-
Enterprise Value	\$677,633.9

Float / Ownership

Owner	Common Shares	% Owned	Reason for exclusion
Executive Officers and Non-Employee Directors			
Phil Horlock	488,718	1.52%	CEO
Radulescu Razvan	97,242	0.30%	CFO
Ted Scartz	48,935	0.15%	SVP General Counsel
Britton Smith	66,118	0.21%	President
Mark Blaufuss	1,984	0.01%	Director
Gurminder S Bedi	27,615	0.09%	Director
Alan H Shumacher	27,615	0.09%	Director
Douglas J Grimm	18,896	0.06%	Director
>5% Beneficial Owners			
American Securites LLC	6,542,650	20.35%	>5% Beneficial Owner
Alliance Bernstein L.P.	1,691,395	5.26%	>5% Beneficial Owner
T. Rowe Price Investment Management, Inc.	1,687,436	5.25%	>5% Beneficial Owner
Total # of Shares	10,698,604	33.28%	
Shares Outstanding	32,146,329		
Calculated Float	21,447,725		
% of SO	66.7%		



Unit Forecast (Mgmt. Guidance)

Diesel units Gas/Propane units EV units





New EV Build Up Center

Center provides sufficient footprint to meet future EV demand

EV Facility Completion Timeline



Facility Throughput Potential

- Blue Bird increased its daily EV production from 2 to 4 ESBs in Q3, intending to increase production to 6 ESBs/shift by the end of the year
 - The facility currently has capacity to run 2 simultaneous shifts, representing daily production of 12 ESBs
 - As demand increases and supply chain capabilities improve, the facility is expected to support a throughput rate of 20 ESBs per day or 5,000 units per year, well within capacity to meet industry demand needs
- Blue Bird is on track to recognize 550 EV orders from the 2000 total orders financed through the first \$1B administrated under the EPA Clean School Bus Program. Management expects ~3,000 orders over the 5-year course of the program, meaning the facility will be able to service demand once the 20 daily ESB target is reached



New EV Center



TTM NA Class 6-7 Bus Backlog at a High

Today's Backlog is 75% of a Year's Build Units





School Bus Types Overview



Annual Industry Unit Production by Class





Comparison of Direct Costs ICE vs BEV¹

For European Compact-Class Vehicles (in Thousands USD)





Business Overview: Corporate Timeline



