

HERSHEY CO
Form 8-K
December 18, 2017

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)

of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 17, 2017

The Hershey Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

001-183
(Commission

File Number)
100 Crystal A Drive

23-0691590
(IRS Employer

ID Number)

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Hershey, PA 17033

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (717) 534-4200

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement

Merger Agreement

On December 17, 2017, The Hershey Company (Hershey), Alphabet Merger Sub Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hershey (Acquisition Sub), and Amplify Snack Brands, Inc. (the Company), entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement).

Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, and upon the terms and subject to the conditions thereof, Acquisition Sub will commence a cash tender offer (the Offer) to acquire all of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, of the Company (Common Stock) at a price per share equal to \$12.00, net to the seller in cash, without interest (the Offer Price), subject to any withholding of taxes required by applicable law.

The obligation of Acquisition Sub to consummate the Offer is subject to customary conditions, including, among others, (i) there being validly tendered and not validly withdrawn prior to the expiration of the Offer a number of shares of Common Stock that, considered together with all other shares of Common Stock (if any) owned by Hershey and its subsidiaries, comprise at least a majority of the shares of Common Stock, (ii) the expiration or termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended (the HSR Act), (iii) the absence of any law or order prohibiting the consummation of the Offer or the Merger (as defined below) and (iv) the accuracy of representations and warranties and compliance with covenants.

The Merger Agreement provides that, following the consummation of the Offer and subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, Acquisition Sub will merge with and into the Company pursuant to Section 251(h) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the DGCL), with the Company being the surviving corporation (the Merger). At the effective time of the Merger, each share of Common Stock (other than (i) shares of Common Stock held by the Company (or held in the Company's treasury), (ii) shares of Common Stock held by Hershey, Acquisition Sub, or any other direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Hershey and (iii) shares of Common Stock held by stockholders who have properly exercised their demands for appraisal of such shares of Common Stock in accordance with the DGCL and have neither withdrawn nor lost such rights prior to the effective time) will be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the Offer Price, without interest and subject to any required tax withholding.

The Merger Agreement may be terminated under certain circumstances, including in specified circumstances in connection with an Acquisition Proposal that the board of directors of the Company determines constitutes a Superior Proposal (each as defined in the Merger Agreement). Upon the termination of the Merger Agreement, under specified circumstances, the Company will be required to pay Hershey a termination fee of approximately \$31.4 million.

The foregoing description of the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Merger Agreement, which is filed as Exhibit 2.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and which is incorporated herein by reference. The Merger Agreement has been filed to provide information to investors regarding its terms. It is not intended to provide any other factual

information about Hershey, Acquisition Sub or the Company, their respective businesses, or the actual conduct of their respective businesses during the period prior to the consummation of the Offer, the Merger or the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement. The Merger Agreement and this summary should not be relied upon as disclosure about Hershey or the Company. None of the Company's stockholders or any other third parties should rely on the representations, warranties and covenants or any descriptions thereof as characterizations of the actual state of facts or conditions of Hershey, Acquisition Sub, the Company or any of their respective subsidiaries or affiliates. The Merger Agreement contains representations and warranties that are the product of negotiations among the parties thereto and that the parties made to, and solely for the benefit of, each other as of specified dates. The assertions embodied in those representations and warranties are subject to qualifications and limitations agreed to by the respective parties and are also qualified in important part by confidential disclosure schedules delivered in connection with the Merger Agreement. The representations and warranties may have been made for the purpose of allocating contractual risk between the parties to the agreements instead of establishing these matters as facts, and may be subject to standards of materiality applicable to the contracting parties that differ from those applicable to investors.

Support Agreement

Concurrent with the execution and delivery of the Merger Agreement, on December 17, 2017, each director, certain executive officers of the Company and certain affiliates of TA Associates Management, LP entered into support agreements (the Support Agreements) with Hershey and Acquisition Sub, pursuant to which each such director, executive officer and significant stockholder agreed, among other things, to tender his, her or its shares of Common Stock pursuant to the Offer. Shares of Common Stock held by these directors, executive officers and significant stockholders represent, in the aggregate, approximately 57% (including equity awards held by directors and officers of the Company) of the shares of Common Stock outstanding on the date of the Merger Agreement.

Important Information

In connection with the proposed acquisition, Hershey and Acquisition Sub will commence a tender offer for the outstanding shares of Common Stock. The tender offer has not yet commenced. This communication is for informational purposes only and is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell shares of Common Stock of the Company, nor is it a substitute for the tender offer materials that Hershey and Acquisition Sub will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) upon commencement of the tender offer. At the time the tender offer is commenced, Hershey and Acquisition Sub will file tender offer materials on Schedule TO with the SEC, and the Company will file a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 with the SEC with respect to the offer. **THE TENDER OFFER MATERIALS (INCLUDING AN OFFER TO PURCHASE, A RELATED LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND CERTAIN OTHER TENDER OFFER DOCUMENTS) AND THE SOLICITATION/RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT SHOULD BE READ CAREFULLY AND CONSIDERED BY THE COMPANY'S STOCKHOLDERS BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE TENDER OFFER.** Both the tender offer statement and the solicitation/recommendation statement will be made available to the Company's stockholders free of charge. A free copy of the tender offer statement and the solicitation/recommendation statement will also be made available to all stockholders of the Company by contacting the Company by phone at 646-277-1228. In addition, the tender offer statement and the solicitation/recommendation statement (and all other documents filed with the SEC) will be available at no charge on the SEC's website: www.sec.gov, upon filing with the SEC. **THE COMPANY'S STOCKHOLDERS ARE ADVISED TO READ THE SCHEDULE TO AND THE SCHEDULE 14D-9, AS EACH MAY BE AMENDED OR SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BEFORE THEY MAKE ANY DECISION WITH RESPECT TO THE TENDER OFFER, BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION AND THE PARTIES THERETO.**

Safe Harbor Statement

This Current Report on Form 8-K contains forward-looking statements. Many of these forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as intend, believe, expect, anticipate, should, planned,

projected, estimated, and potential, among others. These statements are made based upon current expectations that are subject to risk and uncertainty. Because actual results may differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements, you should not place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements when deciding whether to buy, sell or hold Hershey's securities. Factors that could cause results to differ materially include, but are not limited to: the ability to timely satisfy the conditions to the closing of the tender offer; our ability to realize the benefits of the transaction; issues or concerns related to the quality and safety of our products, ingredients or packaging; changes in raw material and other costs, along with the availability of adequate supplies of raw materials; selling price increases, including volume declines associated with pricing elasticity; market demand for our new and existing products; increased marketplace competition; disruption to our manufacturing operations or supply chain; failure to successfully execute and integrate acquisitions, divestitures and joint ventures; changes in governmental laws and regulations, including taxes; political, economic, and/or financial market conditions; risks and uncertainties related to our international operations; disruptions, failures or security breaches of our information technology infrastructure; our ability to hire, engage and retain a talented global workforce; our ability to realize expected cost savings and operating efficiencies associated with strategic initiatives or restructuring programs; complications with the design or implementation of our new enterprise resource planning system; and such other matters as discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended July 2, 2017. All information in this Current Report on Form 8-K is as of December 18, 2017. Hershey undertakes no duty to update any forward-looking statement to conform the statement to actual results or changes in Hershey's expectations.

Item 8.01. Other Events

On December 18, 2017, Hershey and the Company issued a joint press release announcing their entry into the Merger Agreement, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and included by reference herein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit	Description
2.1*	<u>Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 17, 2017, among The Hershey Company, Alphabet Merger Sub Inc. and Amplify Snack Brands, Inc.**</u>
99.1	<u>Joint Press Release issued on December 18, 2017 by Amplify Snack Brands, Inc. and Hershey**</u>
99.2	<u>Investor Presentation, dated December 18, 2017**</u>

* Exhibits and schedules have been omitted pursuant to Item 601(b)(2) of Regulation S-K. Hershey hereby undertakes to furnish supplemental copies of any of the omitted exhibits and schedules upon request by the SEC; provided, however, that Hershey may request confidential treatment pursuant to Rule 24b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for any exhibits or schedules so furnished. A list identifying the contents of all omitted exhibits and schedules can be found in Exhibit 2.1.

** Furnished herewith.

Signature

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

THE HERSHEY COMPANY

By: */s/ Leslie M. Turner*
Leslie M. Turner
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and
Corporate Secretary

Dated: December 18, 2017