

Knowles Corp
Form 8-K
May 02, 2018

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): May 1, 2018

Knowles Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

001-36102
(Commission

File Number)

90-1002689
(IRS Employer

Identification No.)

1151 Maplewood Drive, Itasca, Illinois
(Address of principal executive offices)

60143
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (630) 250-5100

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

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 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Director Resignation

On May 1, 2018, Jean-Pierre Ergas announced his resignation from the Board of Directors (the Board) of Knowles Corporation (the Company), effective at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on May 1, 2018 (the Annual Meeting). The Board elected Donald Macleod to succeed Mr. Ergas as Chairman of the Board immediately upon Mr. Ergas' resignation. Mr. Ergas' decision to resign did not involve any disagreement with the Company, the Company's management or the Board. Effective as of Mr. Ergas' resignation, the size of the Board was reduced from ten to nine directors.

2018 Equity and Cash Incentive Plan

At the Annual Meeting, the stockholders of the Company approved the Knowles Corporation 2018 Equity and Cash Incentive Plan (the 2018 Plan), which had previously been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company, subject to stockholder approval. The 2018 Plan replaces the Knowles Corporation 2016 Equity and Cash Incentive Plan.

The following provides a summary of certain terms of the 2018 Plan. The summary is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the 2018 Plan, which is filed as Exhibit 10.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference. The 2018 Plan was also described in Proposal 5 of the Company's definitive proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 14, 2018 in connection with the Annual Meeting (the 2018 Proxy Statement).

The purposes of the 2018 Plan are to (i) align the interests of the Company's stockholders and recipients of awards under the 2018 Plan by increasing the proprietary interest of such recipients in the Company's growth and success, (ii) advance the interests of the Company by attracting and retaining officers, other employees, and non-employee directors of the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates and (iii) motivate award recipients to act in the long-term best interests of the Company and its stockholders. The 2018 Plan will be administered by a committee designated by the Board, or a subcommittee of such committee.

Subject to the terms of the 2018 Plan, 7.3 million shares of common stock of the Company are authorized for issuance under the 2018 Plan. Under the 2018 Plan, the Company may grant nonqualified stock options, incentive stock options (collectively with nonqualified stock options, Options), stock appreciation rights (SARs), stock awards in the form of restricted stock, restricted stock units or unrestricted stock awards (Stock Awards), performance awards and deferred stock units. To the extent the Company grants a Stock Award or settles a performance award in shares of common stock or grants a deferred stock unit award (on a stand-alone basis and not in connection with the vesting of an award), the number of shares of common stock that remain available for future grants under the 2018 Plan will be reduced by an amount equal to 1.75 times the number of shares subject to such Stock Award, deferred stock unit award or performance award.

The Board may amend the 2018 Plan as it deems advisable, subject to stockholder approval if required by applicable law, rule or regulation or if the Board seeks to modify the Option and SAR repricing or discounting provisions in the 2018 Plan. No amendment may materially impair the rights of a holder of an outstanding award without the consent of such holder.

Item 5.03. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Change in Fiscal Year.

At the Annual Meeting, the Company's stockholders approved Proposal 4, an amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to eliminate the Company's classified board structure on a phase-out basis such that each director would be elected to a one-year term beginning with the directors elected at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and also to provide that, once the Board ceases to be classified, directors may, consistent with Delaware law, be removed with or without cause. Accordingly, on May 2, 2018, the Company filed a Certificate of Amendment of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware implementing the amendment.

Also on May 1, 2018, following the approval of Proposal 4 by the Company's stockholders, the Board adopted a corresponding amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated By-Laws, as amended. Reference is made to the Certificate of Amendment of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amendment No. 3 to the Amended and Restated By-Laws, which are filed as Exhibits 3.1 and 3.2, respectively, to this Current Report on Form 8-K and are incorporated herein by reference.

Item 5.07. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

At the Annual Meeting, the Company's stockholders (i) elected the persons listed below to serve as Class II directors for a term of three years expiring at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, (ii) ratified the appointment of

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2018, (iii) approved, on an advisory basis, the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers as disclosed in the 2018 Proxy Statement, (iv) approved an amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to de-classify the Board on a phase-out basis and (v) approved the 2018 Plan. Set forth below are the voting results for each of the proposals presented at the Annual Meeting:

Proposal 1 Election of Class II directors:

| Director | For | Against | Abstain | Broker Non-Votes |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| Didier Hirsch | 73,318,721 | 896,027 | 28,887 | 5,567,420 |
| Ronald Jankov | 73,131,268 | 1,083,187 | 29,180 | 5,567,420 |
| Ye Jane Li | 73,456,371 | 759,667 | 27,597 | 5,567,420 |
| Dr. Cheryl Shavers | 73,464,501 | 753,922 | 25,212 | 5,567,420 |

Proposal 2 Ratification of the appointment PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2018:

| For | Against | Abstain | Broker Non-Votes |
|------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| 79,697,045 | 84,865 | 29,145 | 0 |

Proposal 3 Nonbinding advisory vote to approve named executive officer compensation:

| For | Against | Abstain | Broker Non-Votes |
|------------|------------|---------|------------------|
| 62,047,811 | 12,105,610 | 90,214 | 5,567,420 |

Proposal 4 Approval of an amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to de-classify the Board on a phase-out basis:

| For | Against | Abstain | Broker Non-Votes |
|------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| 74,107,599 | 96,111 | 39,925 | 5,567,420 |

Proposal 5 Approval of the 2018 Plan:

| For | Against | Abstain | Broker Non-Votes |
|------------|------------|---------|------------------|
| 60,948,173 | 13,244,340 | 51,122 | 5,567,420 |

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|---------------------------|---|
| 3.1 | <u>Certificate of Amendment of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Knowles Corporation, dated May 1, 2018.</u> |
| 3.2 | <u>Amendment No. 3 to the Amended and Restated By-Laws of Knowles Corporation, adopted on May 1, 2018.</u> |
| 10.1 | <u>Knowles Corporation 2018 Equity and Cash Incentive Plan, incorporated by reference to Appendix B to the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the Commission on March 14, 2018.</u> |

SIGNATURES

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

KNOWLES CORPORATION

Date: May 2, 2018

By: /s/ Thomas G. Jackson
Thomas G. Jackson
Senior Vice President, General Counsel &
Secretary