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February 23, 2022

Office of the Attorney General  
State of Idaho  
700 W. Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

Re: Notice of Data Breach

Dear Attorney General Wasden:

This notice is provided on behalf of my client, Shelley School District, located in Shelley, Idaho (the “District”) following a ransomware attack on certain components of the District’s system. The District notified the Idaho Chief Information Security Officer (“CISO”) of the incident on December 10, 2021 and has been providing weekly updates. The District also notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Idaho State Department of Education Executive Director.

On February 22, 2022, the investigation revealed that the incident may have involved unauthorized access to, or acquisition of, Idaho residents’ Social Security numbers. For this reason, consistent with its compliance obligations and responsibilities, the District is now notifying the Idaho Office of Risk Management, ITS Chief Information Officer, ITS CISO, and Attorney General of a data breach under Idaho law.

By way of background, on December 6, 2021, District IT staff learned that ransomware had impacted certain system components. District IT staff immediately launched an investigation and engaged legal counsel with an expertise in cybersecurity. Legal counsel also hired a nationally-recognized cyber security and digital forensics firm to assist with the investigation so that the District could better understand what happened, and, more importantly, prevent something like this from happening again.

The District has been working very closely with its cyber teams to contain and eradicate any malware, investigate the scope of the incident, restore operations, and mitigate any resulting harm. The District deployed SentinelOne, an endpoint detection and response tool to ensure containment and migrated authentication of all devices to a cloud-based system. To-date, SentinelOne has not identified anything of concern related to the incident.

The investigation confirmed that the cybercriminals removed data from the District’s environment. Legal counsel is reviewing this data, with assistance from the forensic investigator, in order to determine what information was involved, who may have been affected and where those people reside so that the District can provide any necessary notices to affected individuals and regulators. Legal counsel expects to complete its review of potentially affected data in the coming week and to provide notice to affected individuals shortly thereafter. The District will update this Office accordingly before providing notice to affected Idaho residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
*Matthew H. Meade*  
Matthew H. Meade, Esq.