### **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): April 10, 2023

# Potbelly Corporation (Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

001-36104 (Commission File Number)

36-4466837 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

111 N. Canal Street, Suite 325 Chicago, Illinois (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

60606 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (312) 951-0600

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)					
	cck the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is in owing provisions:	tended to simultaneously satisfy the	filing obligation of the registrant under any of the		
	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))				
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:					
	Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered		
	Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	PBPB	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (Nasdaq Global Select Market)		
	icate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging pter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 193		405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this		
□ F	Emerging growth company				
	n emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the				

#### Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On April 10, 2023, Potbelly Corporation (the "Company") issued a press release providing preliminary first quarter 2023 results. A copy of the Company's press release is attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

#### Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

On April 11, 2023, the Company will conduct meetings with members of the investment community as part of a non-deal roadshow. A copy of the presentation to be used is attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.2 and will also be available on the "Investors" portion of the Company's website at www.potbelly.com.

All information contained in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2, shall not be deemed "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Exchange Act or the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

#### (d) Exhibits

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press release dated April 10, 2023.

99.2 <u>Presentation.</u>

104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document).

SIGNATURES

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.

#### POTBELLY CORPORATION

By: /s/ Steven Cirulis
Name: Steven Cirulis
Title: Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Strategy Officer

Date: April 10, 2023



#### <u>Potbelly Corporation Provides First Quarter 2023 Business Update</u>

Strong customer demand drives elevated first quarter performance, exceeding expectations across key guidance metrics

Company participating in a Non-Deal Roadshow sponsored by William Blair on Tuesday, April 11

CHICAGO, April 10, 2023 – Potbelly Corporation (NASDAQ: PBPB) ("Potbelly" or the "Company"), the iconic neighborhood sandwich shop, today provided an update on its business and financial results during the first quarter ended March 27, 2023, in conjunction with the Company's participation in a Non-Deal Roadshow sponsored by William Blair.

First Quarter 2023		
Metric	Guidance as of 3/2/2023	Preliminary Results
Average Unit Volumes	\$23,000 to \$24,000	\$23,800 to \$23,900
Shop-store-sales	18.5% to 20.5%	22.0% to 22.3%
Shop-level margin	10.0% to 11.5%	11.5% to 12.0%
Adj. EBITDA	\$4.0 to \$5.0 million	\$5.2 to \$5.6 million
Full Year 2023		
Average Unit Volumes	Record AUVs	No change
Same-store-sales	High single-digit growth	High single to low double-digit growth
Shon-level margin	Low teens	No change

Bob Wright, President and Chief Executive Officer of Potbelly, said, "The strong momentum with which we exited 2022 extended into the first quarter. We expect our first quarter results will surpass the previously stated guidance ranges, driven by strong customer demand, continued execution of the Five-Pillar Strategy and focus on operational excellence, as well as successful marketing initiatives. We also enjoyed good progress in our

Franchise Growth Acceleration Initiative during the quarter, as we signed a new franchise development deal and our first refranchising transaction in the New York City market. I am extremely enthused by the direction and growth of the Company and have great confidence in the future of the Potbelly brand."

The expected financial results are preliminary and unaudited, have not been reviewed by the Company's independent registered public accountants, and remain subject to the completion of normal quarter-end accounting procedures and adjustments and are subject to change. The Company expects to release final financial and operating results for its fiscal first quarter ended March 27, 2023, in May 2023.

#### **About Potbelly**

Potbelly Corporation is a neighborhood sandwich concept that has been feeding customers' smiles with warm, toasty sandwiches, signature salads, hand-dipped shakes and other fresh menu items, customized just the way customers want them, for more than 40 years. Potbelly promises Fresh, Fast & Friendly service in an environment that reflects the local neighborhood. Since opening its first shop in Chicago in 1977, Potbelly has expanded to neighborhoods across the country—with approximately 425 locations shops in the United States including approximately 53 franchised shops in the United States. For more information, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.potbelly.com">www.potbelly.com</a>.

#### Definitions

The following definitions apply to these terms as used throughout this press release:

- Revenues represents net company-operated sandwich shop sales and our franchise royalties and fees. Net company-operated shop sales
  consist of food and beverage sales, net of promotional allowances and employee meals. Franchise royalties and fees consist of an initial
  franchise fee, a franchise development agreement fee and royalty income from the franchisee.
- Company-operated comparable store sales or same-store traffic represents the change in year-over-year sales or transactions for the
  comparable company-operated store base open for 15 months or longer.
- Average Unit Volumes (AUV) represents the average sales of all company-operated shops which reported sales during the associated time period.
- Shop-level profit (loss) represents income (loss) from operations excluding franchise royalties and fees, franchise marketing expenses, general and administrative expenses, depreciation expense, pre-opening costs, restructuring costs and impairment, loss on the disposal of property and equipment and shop closures.
- Shop-level profit (loss) margin represents shop-level profit expressed as a percentage of net company-operated sandwich shop sales.

#### <sup>1</sup>Non-GAAP Financial Measures

We prepare our financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"). Within this press release, we make reference to shop-level profit and shop-level profit margin, which are non-GAAP financial measures. The Company includes these non-GAAP financial measures

because management believes they are useful to investors in that they provide for greater transparency with respect to supplemental information used by management in its financial and operational decision making.

Management uses adjusted EBITDA, adjusted net income and adjusted diluted EPS to evaluate the Company's performance and in order to have comparable financial results to analyze changes in our underlying business from quarter to quarter. Adjusted EBITDA, adjusted net income and adjusted diluted EPS exclude the impact of certain non-cash charges and other items that affect the comparability of results in past quarters and which we do not believe are reflective of underlying business performance. Management uses shop-level profit and shop-level profit margin as key metrics to evaluate the profitability of incremental sales at our shops, to evaluate our shop performance across periods and to evaluate our shop financial performance against our competitors.

Accordingly, the Company believes the presentation of these non-GAAP financial measures, when used in conjunction with GAAP financial measures, is a useful financial analysis tool that can assist investors in assessing the Company's operating performance and underlying prospects. This analysis should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP. This analysis, as well as the other information in this press release, should be read in conjunction with the Company's financial statements and footnotes contained in the documents that the Company files with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The non-GAAP financial measures used by the Company in this press release may be different from the methods used by other companies.

#### Forward-Looking Statements

In addition to historical information, this press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements, written, oral or otherwise made, represent the Company's expectation or belief concerning future events. Without limiting the foregoing, the words "believes," "expects," "may," "might," "will," "should," "seeks," "intends," "plans," "strives," "goal," "estimates," "forecasts," "projects" or "anticipates" or the negative of these terms and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements included in this press release may include, among others, statements relating to our future financial position and results of operations, business strategy, and outlook.

By nature, forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected or implied by the forward-looking statement. All forward-looking statements contained in this press release are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations are reasonable, we may not achieve our plans, intentions or expectations. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and assumptions and currently available data and are neither predictions nor guarantees of future events or performance. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. See "Risk Factors" and "Cautionary Statement on Forward-Looking Statements" included in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and other risk factors described from time to time in subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q or other subsequent filings, all of which are available on our website at www.potbelly.com. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as otherwise required by law.

Investor Relations Contact Lisa Fortuna or Ashley Gruenberg Alpha IR Group 312-445-2870 PBPB@alpha-ir.com



### **Cautionary Statements**

#### Forward-Looking Statements

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#### Note Regarding Non-GAAP Measures

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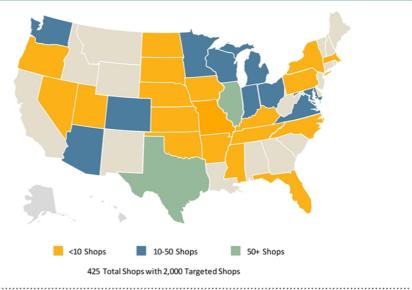
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### Welcome to Potbelly

### Potbelly is the sandwich shop with the craveable quality and good vibes of a first-class dive.

- Strong heritage founded in a Chicago antique shop in 1977
- 425 locations today, including 53 franchise shops in the U.S.
- Delicious, craveable food made-to-order with fresh, high-quality ingredients
- Authentic concept with loyal customer base:
  - Inviting neighborhood feel
  - Fresh, Fast & Friendly service
  - Unique brand position



### Why Invest in PBPB?



### **Brand Position**



Potbelly is the sandwich shop with the craveable quality and good vibes of a first-class dive.

POTBLLLY 5

## Strong Leadership Team: Deep Restaurant Experience



**Bob Wright** President & CEO



Chief Financial Officer



**Adam Noyes Chief Operating Officer** 



Adiya Dixon Chief Legal Officer



Jeffrey Douglas



**Larry Strain** 



**David Daniels** 

Chief Information Officer Chief Development Officer Chief Marketing Officer

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**Executing Against Five-Pillar Strategic Plan** 



## Pillar 1: Craveable Quality Food at a Great Value



- Increased promotions and offerings
  - Continue to promote and highlight diverse, premium menu items
  - Growing catering business to compliment a multitude of social gatherings
  - Unique LTO menu items such as Meatball Madness and the Red Velvet Cookie
- Redefined sandwich sizes and increased meat and cheese portions have improved value for customers
- Increased Pick-Your-Pair combination options











### Pillar 2: People Creating Good Vibes



- Continue to embrace 'Hire for "Good Vibes" attitude & personality, train for skills' mantra
- Implemented employee retention and acquisition initiatives including referral bonus programs, pay band modifications, and digital tipping feature
- Transformed Rewards & Recognition systems to reward traffic driven profitability at all levels of Management
- Balanced scorecard system aligns incentives and recognizes the top performers
- Hours-based labor management improves planning and productivity while reducing cost



### Pillar 3: Customer Experiences that Drive Traffic Growth



- Refined operating systems that focus on improving and delivering consistent food quality, speed, throughput and cleanliness
- Delivering outsized customer satisfaction performance vs. competition
- Leveraging two-line kitchen to deliver digital and off-premise business while maintaining in shop line speed and experience
- Expanding implementation of Potbelly Digital Kitchen (PDK) in company and franchise shops improving customer experience and associate experience while saving labor costs
- Successful campaigns with third-party partners like DoorDash, Grubhub and Uber Eats complement Potbelly's in-house delivery







**Uber Eats** 

**GRUBHUB** 

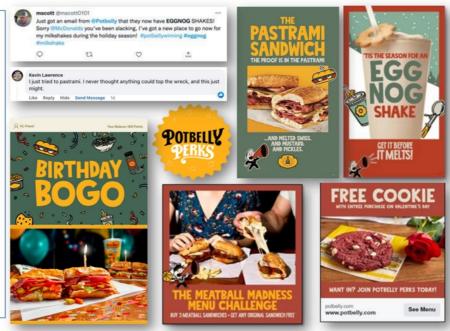
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### Pillar 4: Digitally-Driven Awareness, Connection & Traffic



- Continued strength in digital results, representing 36% of revenue in Q1'23, and Perks Loyalty Program activations, driving record fourth quarter top-line results
- Digital engagement driven by a combination of increased digital marketing efforts and promotional activity such as the digital-only offering to promote 'underground' Meatball menu items
- Catering business continues to strengthen and fast approaching pre-pandemic levels driven by both return to office trends and social engagements
- Launched LTOs such as the Pastrami Sandwich. Eggnog Shake, and Red Velvet Cookie which built customer excitement and drove top-line expansion

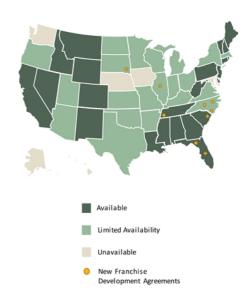


### Pillar 5: Franchise-Focused Development



- Escalating new shop development emphasizing franchising and building organization capability to support growth
- Compelling franchisee financial returns
  - Highest AUV in its category\*
  - ~2:1 Sales to investment ratio
  - Strong and improving shop margins
- Highly active and fluid pipeline of quality Potbelly franchisee candidates
- Increasing momentum
  - Signed multiple new franchise development agreements in 2022 totaling 51 new shop commitments
  - Refranchised NYC Market: Sold 8 company locations along with 13 shop SDAA (Shop Development Area Agreement)
  - 2023 deal activity continues to build momentum





\*Highest AUVs among national sandwich competitors over 150 units as reported in Nation's Restaurant

\*Potential\*

\*Potenti

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### SSS and AUV Trends Sustain Positive Momentum



### Consistent Order Mode Mix, Ongoing Digital Strength

### Average Unit Volume and Order Mode Mix



- "In-Shop" includes all revenue for orders placed at the counter or via phone/fax.
- "Digital" includes all revenue for orders placed through the mobile app, website, and third-party delivery partners. Represents preliminary figures

### Preliminary Q1'23 Results vs Guidance & FY'23 Outlook

### Q1'23 Guidance and Preliminary Results



Average Unit Volumes: \$23,000 to \$24,000

\$23,800 to \$23,900

Same-store-sales: 18.5% to 20.5%

22.0% to 22.3%

**Shop-level margin:** 10.0% to 11.5%

11.5% to 12.0%

Adj. EBITDA \$4 to 5 million

\$5.2 to \$5.6 million

### FY'23 Outlook

Average Unit Volumes: Record levels

Same-store-sales: High single-digit to low double-digit growth<sup>1</sup>

Shop-level margin: Low teens

1. Updated from "High-single digit growth" provided on 3/2/23

Potbelly

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### Strong Platform to Achieve Growth Targets



#### Strong Brand, Differentiated **Experience**

Authentic fast casual concept, with fresh, fast, & friendly service and high brand recognition across 400+ locations



#### Franchise Focused Development

2024 target of 10% unit growth; refranchise approximately 25% of Company-owned shops; Long-term goal of 2,000 shops



#### **Renewed Focus of Strategic** Marketing

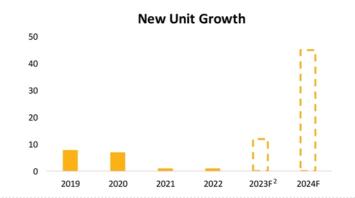
Positive momentum with Scale digital media and Perks loyalty program integration



#### **Executing Five-Pillar** Strategic Plan

'Traffic-Driven Profitability' underpinned by five key pillars to achieve sustainable long-term growth





2. The Company did not provide nominal 2023 guidance; for illustrative purpose only

### Why Invest in PBPB?



# **APPENDIX:**

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND GAAP TO NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS

## Q4 2022 Performance Review: Y/Y

In Millions	Q4 2022	Q4 2021
Revenue	\$120.2	\$102.8
Same Store Sales (SSS)	18.9%	33.8%
GAAP Net Income (Loss)	\$2.7	(\$2.5)
Adjusted Net Income (Loss) <sup>1</sup>	\$2.6	(\$1.6)
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	\$7.5	\$2.6
Shop-level Profit <sup>1</sup>	\$16.9	\$9.9
G&A/Sales	9.0%	8.4%
Food, Beverage, & Packaging Costs/Sales	28.7%	28.4%
Labor/Sales	30.8%	32.8%
Other Operating Expenses/Sales	15.1%	16.2%
Shop-level Margin <sup>1</sup>	14.2%	9.7%

<sup>1.</sup> See Appendix to this presentation for GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliations; Shop-level margins now include allocation of marketing and advertising expenses.

## FY 2022 Performance Review: Y/Y

In Millions	FY 2022	FY 2021
Revenue	\$452.0	\$380.1
Same Store Sales (SSS)	18.5%	30.3%
GAAP Net Income (Loss)	\$4.3	(\$23.8)
Adjusted Net Income (Loss) <sup>1</sup>	(\$0.1)	(\$14.4)
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	\$15.7	\$0.5
Shop-level Profit <sup>1</sup>	\$47.2	\$27.8
G&A/Sales	8.4%	8.3%
Food, Beverage, & Packaging Costs/Sales	28.8%	27.8%
Labor/Sales	31.7%	33.7%
Other Operating Expenses/Sales	16.7%	16.8%
Shop-level Margin <sup>1</sup>	10.5%	7.4%

<sup>1.</sup> See Appendix to this presentation for GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliations; Shop-level margins now include allocation of marketing and advertising expenses.

# Q4 & FY 2022 Performance Review: Adjusted Net Income

In Millions	Q4 2022	FY 2022
Net Income (Loss)	\$2.7	\$4.3
Impairment, Disposals & Closures	\$0.8	\$4.8
Gain on Debt Extinguishment	\$0.0	(\$10.2)
Income Tax Adjustments	(\$0.8)	\$1.0
Adjusted Net Income (Loss)	\$2.6	(\$0.1)

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# Q4 & FY 2022 Performance Review: Adjusted EBITDA

In Millions	Q4 2022	FY 2022
Net Income/(Loss)	\$2.7	\$4.3
Depreciation Expense	\$2.8	\$11.9
Interest Expense	\$0.3	\$1.3
Income Tax Expense	\$0.2	\$0.3
EBITDA	\$5.9	\$17.9
Impairment, Disposals & Closures	\$0.8	\$4.8
Stock Compensation	\$0.8	\$3.3
Gain on Debt Extinguishment	\$0.0	(\$10.2)
Adjusted EBITDA	\$7.5	\$15.7

## Q4 & FY 2022 Performance Review: Shop Margin

In Millions	Q4 2022	FY 2022
Income/(Loss) from Operations	\$3.2	(\$3.8)
Less: Franchise Revenue	\$1.1	\$4.1
Franchise Marketing	\$0.3	\$0.7
G&A Expense	\$10.8	\$37.7
Depreciation Expense	\$2.8	\$11.9
Impairment, Disposals & Closures	\$0.8	\$4.8
Shop-level Profit	\$16.9	\$47.2
Total Revenues	\$120.2	\$452.0
Less: Franchise Revenue	\$1.1	\$4.1
Sandwich Shop Sales, Net	\$119.0	\$447.9
Shop-level Margin	14.2%	10.5%

### Use of Non-GAAP Measures

#### Note Regarding Non-GAAP Measures

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Information reconciling forward-looking shop-level profit margin to GAAP financial measures is unavailable to the Company without unreasonable effort. The Company is not able to provide reconciliations of shop-level profit margins to GAAP financial measures because certain items required for such reconciliations are outside of the Company's control and/or cannot be reasonably predicted. These items include but are not limited to impairment charges, gain or loss on asset disposals, shop closure costs, and restructuring costs that are difficult to predict in advance in order to include in a GAAP estimate and may be issufficient.

#### Definitions

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- Company-operated comparable store-sales or same-store traffic- represents the change in year-over-year sales or transactions for the comparable company-operated store base open for 15 months or longer.
- Average Unit Volumes (AUV) represents the average sales of all company-operated shops which reported sales during the associated time period.
- EBITDA represents income before depreciation and amortization expense, interest expense and the provision for income taxes.
- Adjusted EBITDA represents income before depreciation and amortization expense, interest expense and the provision for income taxes, adjusted to eliminate the impact of other items, including certain non-cash and other items that we do not consider representative of our ongoing operating performance.
- Shop-level profit (loss) represents income (loss) from operations excluding franchise royalties and fees, franchise marketing expenses, general and administrative expenses, depreciation expense, pre-opening costs, restructuring costs and impairment, loss on the disposal of property and equipment and shop closures.
- Shop-level profit (loss) margin represents shop-level profit expressed as a percentage of net company-operated sandwich shop sales.
- Adjusted net income (loss) represents net income (loss), adjusted to eliminate the impact of restructuring costs, impairment, loss on the disposal of property and equipment, shop closures, and other items we do not consider representative of our ongoing operating performance including the income tax effects of those adjustments.
- Adjusted diluted EPS represents adjusted net income (loss) divided by the weighted average number of fully dilutive common shares outstanding

### **Investor Relations Contacts**



### **Investor Relations Contacts:**

Lisa Fortuna or Ashley Gruenberg
Alpha IR Group
312-445-2870
PBPB@alpha-ir.com

**P**01BELLY. 25