

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

On October 14, 2016, James E. Nevels, Lead Independent Director of The Hershey Company (the “Company”), notified the Company of his intention not to stand for re-election as a director at the Company’s 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, currently expected to be held on May 3, 2017. Mr. Nevels will continue to serve as the Company’s Lead Independent Director until that time.

Mr. Nevels indicated his intention not to stand for re-election solely for personal reasons and not due to any disagreement with the Company on any matter relating to the Company’s operations, policies or practices.

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

Date: October 14, 2016

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