



Exchange Act.



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

At a meeting held on December 18, 2017, the Board of Directors of Papa John's International, Inc. (the "Company") appointed Steve Ritchie, 43, to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, effective January 1, 2018. Mr. Ritchie is currently serving as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company. Mr. Ritchie was appointed President and Chief Operating Officer in July 2015 after serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since May 2014. Mr. Ritchie has served as a Senior Vice President since December 2010 and in various capacities of increasing responsibility over Global Operations & Global Operations Support and Training since July 2010. Since 2006, he also has served as a franchise owner and operator of multiple units in the Company's Midwest Division.

John H. Schnatter, the Company's Founder, who is currently serving as Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, will continue his service as Founder and Chairman of the Board.

No changes to executive compensation for Mr. Ritchie have been determined at this time. Information about Mr. Ritchie's compensation and certain related person transactions involving Mr. Ritchie which are required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K can be found in the Company's definitive proxy statement for its 2017 annual meeting of stockholders filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 23, 2017, which information is incorporated by reference herein.

A copy of the press release issued by the Company on December 21, 2017, to announce the Chief Executive Officer succession is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit 99.1    Papa John's International, Inc. press release dated December 21, 2017.

**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.

**PAPA JOHN'S  
INTERNATIONAL,  
INC.**  
(Registrant)

Date: December 21, 2017 /s/ Lance F. Tucker  
Lance F. Tucker  
Senior Vice President,  
Chief Financial  
Officer,  
Chief Administrative  
Officer and Treasurer