

October 3, 2024

Dear MECDHH Community,

I am humbled by the School Board support to begin serving as the MECDHH/GBSD Executive Director. I will officially transition from interim Superintendent Consultant to Executive Director on Monday, October 7. Over the course of the fall I will also be continuing to serve as the part-time Sebago School Department Superintendent while the Sebago School Committee conducts a search for my replacement.

The decision to join MECDHH which requires me to transition from Sebago was not an easy one. I have great respect for both communities, have had the opportunity to learn and grow in both places, and have made deep connections at the Sebago School Department and MECDHH; however, I developed an intangible draw to MECDHH and discovered that draw is referred to as "deaf heart," which I learned has to do with the willingness of a hearing person to KNOW both Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and the Deaf community. It has to do with knowing and understanding from the heart. I have discovered my deaf heart. I find my path is leading me to serve as the MECDHH Executive Director.

Over the course of the coming fall I will begin my foray into American Sign Language courses and participate in Deaf culture events to further develop my awareness and understanding of community expectations, statewide program needs, and to discover how I may best advocate locally and in Augusta for MECDHH and for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community at large. I look forward to the personal and professional challenges ahead, as well as having a broader opportunity to bring my leadership experience to bear for our students.

Should you wish to contact me, please feel free to email me at steve.connolly@mecdhh.org or schedule a time to sit and share your thoughts, ideas, and dreams with me. Additionally, please contact kim.spencer@mecdhh.org if you would like to schedule a time to meet.

In the meantime, I look forward to exploring and developing my new passion that is MECDHH and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing culture in Maine.

Best regards,



Steve Connolly