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[« Thursday's Morning News | Main](#)

### Thursday's field trip to the teacher blogs

This Thursday's dip into the teacher blogs brings us to teacher, author and consultant [Gary Stager's](#) commentary on L.A. Unified's selection for the superintendent job on [The Pulse](#) group blog.

Stager Writes: [When I run the Navy...](#)



"Call me Admiral Stager! I took swimming lessons for seven years, visited the USS Ling submarine in Hackensack, NJ and my father was once in the National Guard. I've even been known to giggle at reruns of McHale's Navy and Gilligan's Island. However, the best reasons to name me Admiral are:

1) I want the job and 2) I have no qualifications whatsoever!"

"Ridulous? Why would someone with zero qualifications be put in charge of a naval fleet?"

A similar question might be asked of Vice Admiral David L. Brewer III, just named Superintendent of the 710,000+ student Los Angeles Unified School District.

The always entertaining Los Angeles School Board appointed the retired General with absolutely no advanced degree, educational expertise or teaching experience to lead the second largest school district in the country.

Admiral Brewer may be an impressive leader and heckuva guy. The L.A. School Board may be sticking it to the Mayor for his recent power grab of the school district. Yet none of this matters much or will improve the quality of education in this troubled lumbering district.

In the topsy-turvy world of public education a lack of qualifications earns you the fast track to big city school leadership and a hefty paycheck. One of the primary goals of education is the development of expertise, not just political acumen. What sort of example are we setting for students? How much do we respect education when educators are deemed unacceptable as district leaders? Learning is more complex than supply chain management.

It seems as if any unemployed member of the military, failed businessman or police officer is thought better qualified to run schools than educators. I'm sick of it. How about you?

Perhaps we need federal legislation requiring a fully qualified superintendent in every school district!"

More Stager [here](#).

October 19, 2006 in [Teacher Blogs](#) | [Permalink](#)

**SCHOOL ME: WHO WE ARE**



FOR PARENTS ONLY



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