

BEUTNER HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION



He worked in Wall Street's Blackstone Group, and then co-founded Evercore Partners, a private equity firm whose claim to fame is dismantling companies, firing workers and selling the leftovers for a profit. After that, he went onto short-term but high-profile gigs with little success. He tried running for mayor, but his candidacy did not gain traction. At LADWP, Beutner was the ninth general manager in 10 years. At the L.A. Times, he was one of several publishers fired by out-of-town ownership. He has no experience as a teacher or even managing a school. **So, what makes him qualified to run the nation's second-largest school district?**

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by Bill Raden

CAPITAL & MAIN



F. Scott Fitzgerald's line about there being no second acts in American lives clearly doesn't apply to a pair of veteran ed reform consultants just hired by L.A. Unified schools chief **Austin Beutner**.

Before joining Team Beutner, ThirdWay Solutions founder **Cami Anderson** was Newark, New Jersey's parent-alienating schools superintendent from 2011 to 2015. Her Mark Zuckerberg-funded "One Newark" universal enrollment scheme led to numerous neighborhood school closures, mass firings and multiple complaints of civil rights violations.

And **Erin McGoldrick Brewster**, a partner at "portfolio district" specialists Kitamba, was singled out in a 2011 investigative piece by USA Today for helping then-Washington, DC schools chancellor **Michelle Rhee** stonewall an investigation into higher-than-typical erasure rates on multiple-choice standardized tests during Rhee's controversial test score-linked merit pay program.

The consultants, who are part of a new deregulation initiative announced by Beutner last week, will be paid off the LAUSD books, courtesy of a \$3 million discretionary fund partly financed by billionaire school privatizer **Eli Broad**.

SO WHAT IS HIS REAL AGENDA?

WE KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT PUBLIC EDUCATION

That's why we are here today

The students, parents and teachers of LAUSD are fighting for the building blocks of a healthy school – lower class size, fewer tests that waste instructional time, a full-time nurse, counselor and librarian, and greater access to early and special education programs, as well as more arts, music and ethnic studies.

While LAUSD Supt. Austin Beutner says he wants the same things, his actions tell a different story. He has hired top-level administrators without disclosing who they are or what they are doing for the school district. On Tuesday, he refused to meet with students at LAUSD HQ. He has canceled school visits. He refuses to let teachers into RSVP-only community events. He disrespects public education at every turn.

Join us in standing up for what our schools need:



Fund Our Schools

California is the richest state in the nation, yet ranks **43 out of 50** in per-pupil spending

UTLA is fighting to increase per-pupil funding to \$20,000 by 2020. LAUSD must join us to fully fund our schools.



Class Size Matters

California ranks **48 out of 50** LAUSD teachers have among the largest class sizes in the state.

Beutner and LAUSD refuses to eliminate section 1.5 of the contract, which allows them to ignore class size caps



Less Testing & More Teaching

100+ Standardized LAUSD tests taken by TK-6 students in 2017-18

UTLA is fighting to provide teachers with increased discretion to determine when and/or what standardized assessments are given.



Improve School Safety

Student-to-counselor ratio in CA **945:1**
Student-to-nurse ratio in LAUSD **1,224:1**

Beutner and LAUSD refuses to add more school nurses, counselors, social workers, librarians and other staff; rejects greater educator input on school safety plans.



End the Privatization Drain

287% growth in the charter school industry in LA since 2008 drains almost **\$600 million** from public schools each year.

Beutner and LAUSD refuses to bargain for reasonable charter accountability and co-location measures.



Support Community Schools

The Community Schools model, successful across the country, includes broadened curriculum, parent engagement and wrap-around services.

Beutner and LAUSD ignores common good proposals, though they would increase success and enrollment in public schools.



But There Is Money

- Beutner says unregulated charter school growth is a "distracting shiny ball" yet it drains \$600 million annually from our public schools
- LAUSD sits on over \$1.8 billion in unrestricted reserves.
- California is the 5th largest economy in the world