



Brookings Hires Exorcist to Purge Ravitch "Demons"

Just days after [removing historian Diane Ravitch as a fellow](#), the Brookings Institution has hired a professional exorcist to rid the organization of any lingering evil spirits that she may have left behind.

"We're just being extra-careful with this one," said Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, the Director of the Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings and a campaign advisor to former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. "We still don't know what sort of demon possessed Diane herself, and we can't take a chance that he, she, it or they might still be active."

Whitehurst's comments refer to Ravitch's political conversion from someone who formerly advocated the Brookings agenda of vouchers, charters and test-based accountability policy. She now actively opposes those policies.

"I'd be lying if I said it wasn't scary," confided Whitehurst. "We've all started looking at one another a little warily, wondering who might be possessed next. The other day I caught [Brookings Senior Fellow] Tom Loveless laughing at that 'sleeveless pineapple' test question. When he was laughing, this vile, green liquid came out of his mouth. He told me he was eating some take-out split-pea soup from Angelo's. But I don't know – can I even trust him anymore?"

The exorcism idea was initially met at Brookings with some nervous laughter. But they're now on board, according to Brookings Fellow Paul Hill: "This is the same exorcist that [Education Secretary Arne] Duncan used after the Department of Education parted ways with Linda Darling-Hammond, and they've had no problems since."

Star Principal Follows Proven Pathway

Frank LeTreaux, principal of Smogwheeze Middle School in Los Angeles, has resigned and taken a position as an Assistant Vice President of Human Resources at Mattel, a Fortune 500 company with over six billion dollars in revenue in 2011.

LeTreaux is, however, ambivalent about the move. "I don't really care about Mattel or the stuff it makes. Barbie? What rubbish!"

What motivated LeTreaux was a desire to become a school district superintendent. "I have it all planned out," he says. "I'll work at Mattel for four or five years, then I'll apply to the Broad Superintendents Academy, and from there I'll be able to get a nice position running a school district."

By standards that were used only a decade ago, LeTreaux already seems like a good candidate for such a position. After teaching for eight years at an urban high school in New Haven, Connecticut, he earned a doctorate from Penn and came out to Los Angeles, where he's successfully led three different schools. But his career then stalled.

"I saw the handwriting on the wall. I'm too traditional. That teaching and the Ph.D. and the principalships - there's no way I'll ever get hired as a superintendent."

LeTreaux's plan is to take all the education work off his resume when he applies to the Broad Academy. "They're more likely to accept me if they think I have only business experience."