
January 14, 2015
Magazine
Reads”
OTTERBEIN

Philadelphia
“Wednesday’s City
by HOLLY

Local Reads: “In the final days of Corbett, budget chief Zogby reflects on his quest for school reforms”

Charles Zogby has been Pennsylvania’s budget secretary during a time of utter financial chaos for Philadelphia’s schools. Whether it’s largely his and his boss Gov. Corbett’s fault, or the result of the loss of federal stimulus dollars, has been the subject of furious and seemingly never-ending debate.

NewsWorks’ Kevin McCorry profiles the man behind the checkbook as he prepares to leave Harrisburg to make way for Gov.-elect Wolf’s new team. A few fascinating details emerge: Zogby has a framed quote in his office that reads, “Nothing stimulates the imagination like a budget cut.” His biggest regrets are failing to end teacher seniority and mandate that teachers be paid based on student performance. And Zogby offers a theory for why charter schools have produced mixed results that, unexpectedly, is sure to upset some charter supporters:

Zogby blames the uneven results of the charter sector as a whole on poor oversight at the local level – calling for an independent, statewide authorizer and overseer.

“Having had a hand writing the original law, having helped write the cyber law, you’re never going to see me defend poor performing charter schools. I think we ought to shutter them,” he says. “If you’re not performing, you remediate. If you’re unable to remediate, you go out of business. Cause we’ll find another operator that can take your place.”

On this point he says charter proponents should be more vocal.

“One of the beefs that I’ve had with [The Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools], frankly, is they jump to the defense of a charter school, right, no matter the performance of that school. Look at what the SRC did to close **Walter Palmer**. That was the right decision to make, and yet a lot of charter advocates, just because it says ‘charter,’ like we somehow can’t close that school.”

Another interesting tidbit: Zogby has several pictures hanging in his office of him and former Gov. Ridge, who he worked for as a policy director, but *none* of him and Corbett.

January 16, 2015
Philadelphia Tribune
“Shuttered Palmer school still owes ex-employees”
By Wilford Shamlin III.