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## Testing worries parents

By Ron Leir  
Observer Correspondent

### NORTH ARLINGTON –

A group of parents have formed “North Arlington Cares About Schools” to press their concerns about what they feel is a wrong-headed approach by the state to standardized testing of students.

NACAS hosted a panel discussion April 23 at the Knights of Columbus hall of various advocates opposed to “the over-use of high stakes standardized testing and the use of students scores [on these tests] to inform ... student promotion, middle and high school admissions, graduation, hiring and firing of teachers and school closings.”

The local organizers of the group are Wanda Peguero, Amorliz Arce and Kelley Velez, all of whom have children attending borough schools.

Peguero said the group reached out to organizations like Save Our Schools NJ and United Opt Out, after being advised by the North Arlington public school district that children “are required to take” the NJASK (N.J. Assessment of Skills & Knowledge) test.

A posting on the North Arlington schools website notes: “Federal government requires districts to test – there is no way for parents to opt out. Schools need 95% subgroup

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Frank Ferraro and Patricia Blood

## Solve this equation: pay 2 to do 1 job

By Ron Leir  
Observer Correspondent

### KEARNY –

Every two weeks, the Kearny Board of Education gives paychecks to two superintendents: Frank Ferraro, placed on involuntary paid leave on Jan. 6, collects \$6,979.17 and Patricia Blood, doing double duty as acting chief administrator and curriculum director, gets \$6,666.67.

Blood, who was making \$143,473 as curriculum director, is getting an additional \$16,527 for handling the superintendent’s job at the same time. Ferraro’s annual pay is \$167,500.

Since the school board set no time limit for his leave time, and since his contract runs through June 30, 2016, Ferraro could, theoretically, stay away from his job at least until then while con-

tinuing to pocket his contractual wages, and while taxpayers continue to pay double for one job.

For his part, Ferraro told The Observer he’s doing everything he can to return to work.

“I’m following proper channels to get reinstated,” he told The Observer last week. He said he’s relying on his attorney, Andrew Bubiak, of the N.J. Association of School Administrators, to prepare and file the necessary paperwork with the state Commissioner of Education to try and make that happen.

But Ferraro, who spent all of his career as an educational administrator in the Empire State, said that in the process he’s been learning a hard lesson that when dealing with New Jersey’s educational bureaucracy, “you’re not always in the fast lane.”

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## Federal charges for robbery suspect

By Karen Zautyk  
Observer Correspondent

### HARRISON –

A Harrison woman arrested in February in connection with three bank robberies in the span of three weeks is in even deeper trouble now. Last Wednesday, the U.S.

Attorney’s Office in Newark announced it was adopting the case of Valeria Parziale for federal prosecution.

As reported in The Observer, Parziale, 34, was nabbed Feb. 24 on a street in Newark by officers of the Newark Police Department. She is charged with three

counts of bank robbery for holdups Jan. 30 at the Valley National Bank, 433 Harrison Ave. in Harrison, and Feb. 14 at a Wells Fargo bank in Newark, and an attempted heist Feb. 20 at a Popular Community Bank (Banco Popular), also in Newark.

On the federal charges,

Parziale faces a potential maximum penalty of 60 years in prison -- 20 on each count -- and fines totalling \$750,000. There is no parole in the federal criminal justice system.

According to the complaint filed by the FBI, Parziale,

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