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Ransom Road school safety issues discussed

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By Paul Lane

Steps are being taken to make the Grand Island school campus on Ransom Road a safer place for students.

Members of the School Board spent part of Monday night's board meeting discussing the results of a joint Town Board-School Board meeting that was held last week.

Among the moves to be made by the town are the installation of several light poles along Ransom Road and a reduced-speed school zone in front of Connor Middle School and Grand Island High School, School Board member Glenn Bobeck said.

An additional police presence will also patrol the road during the morning and afternoon rush times, he said, keeping an eye out for infractions such as speeding and the illegal passing of buses, problems that have plagued the school campus at times.

"We all live on the Island," Bobeck said. "We should be careful traveling through that area."

One safety measure that won't be put in force is the installation of crosswalks, which require sidewalks to be present on both sides of the road. Many homes along Ransom Road don't have sidewalks, and Bobeck said homeowners would have to approve and then pay for any sidewalks to be put in.

Those homeowners who have sidewalks, however, should make sure to keep their sidewalks clear of snow, board member Paul Krull said.

"All the time, I see kids walking down the middle of the street at 6:30, 7 a. m.," said Krull, who lives on Ransom near the school campus.

The district also will install lights near the two entrances to Sidway Elementary School on Baseline Road, Superintendent Robert Christmann said.

The installation of the school zone and new Ransom Road lights should be completed by the fall, Bobeck said.