

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board February 6, 2026
Rough Draft

HANSEN: OK. Good morning, and welcome to the Executive Board. My name is Senator Ben Hansen. I represent the 16th Legislative District and I serve as chair of the Executive Board. For the purpose of noting attendance, I would ask members of the committee to introduce themselves, starting on my far right with Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: John Fredrickson, District 20.

JACOBSON: Mike Jacobson, District 42.

DORN: Myron Dorn, District 30.

BALLARD: Beau Ballard, District 21.

IBACH: Teresa Ibach, District 44.

BOSTAR: Eliot Bostar, District 29.

McKINNEY: Terrell McKinney, District 11.

HANSEN: Also assisting the committee is our committee clerk, Natalie Schunk, and our legal counsel, Benson Wallace. So what we're meeting for today is the formal letter of reprimand against Senator Machaela Cavanaugh for her actions on the first day of session, you know, pertaining to tearing down the stuff off the walls. As I mentioned before, we were kind of waiting to see what Lancaster County does, and that would help us kind of determine what we need to do as an Executive Board, or what I feel like we need to do as an Executive Board, at least being consistent with past actions. And so, right now, if my understanding-- and Benson can correct me here-- it doesn't seem like Lancaster County is pursuing any action against Senator Machaela Cavanaugh. So instead of a censure motion, I thought we would just do a reprimand, like I mentioned before. You know-- and the letter kind of speaks for itself, and I think most of you have read it. I just want to make sure there wasn't any questions or concerns about it.

McKINNEY: I got-- my, my only question, I've talked to Machaela, she said she hasn't been notified of anything.

HANSEN: I told her we were either going to do a censure or a reprimand.

McKINNEY: No, from Lancaster.

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HANSEN: Oh. I, I don't know about that. I just heard through the grapevine and we just confirmed-- what they can call it.

They, they often won't if they're not going to bring charges. tell anyone

ARCH: And that's my vision.

HANSEN: It's kind of weird, but.

Yeah, but I talked with the investigator this morning, and he said they're-- they wouldn't-- they're not going to proceed.

HANSEN: And earlier, she said she's not surprised if we do something. And I'm assuming this is probably the best outcome for her. So.

IBACH: And honestly, she did say, to me, at least, we will accept-- I will accept any action that you-- that the board decides to take against me.

JACOBSON: That the expulsion might be something she knows.

HANSEN: Yeah, I wanted to be as consistent as we could considering Senator McKeon, and all that kind of stuff. So that's why I felt like if there were charges brought, then we would probably do a censure, but [INAUDIBLE] or nothing. Senator Arch, did you have something?

ARCH: Yeah. I, I guess we're talking about a personnel matter and I see we've got media in the room.

HANSEN: This is the formal letter of reprimand against Senator Cavanaugh.

ARCH: OK.

HANSEN: That's all we're discussing.

JACOBSON: Do we want to be in closed session is probably the question.

ARCH: Well, it's-- I don't know. But that-- I wasn't here for that. I've got things going on the floor. I really need to go back and pay attention to.

HANSEN: Well, we just need to take it to a vote.

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ARCH: Yeah. I, I, I-- I'm-- I will just give you my opinion on the timing of this. And, and I would like to see a delay on, on this vote. I'm not, I'm not, I'm not opposed to the action. But I, I think that-- I'd just like to see a delay on the vote. So.

HANSEN: What are you thinking, like Monday or something or what?

ARCH: Yeah. I mean, I, I don't know, I don't know what that timing is, but you and I can discuss the timing of that, but, but I'm really-- I, I don't know-- I'd really appreciate it if you don't quote me. OK? I mean, I'm concerned about that.

HANSEN: Any other thoughts? Do people think we should delay it?

BALLARD: Like, I don't know.

FREDRICKSON: I mean, I think it's--

HANSEN: I'm fine, if you--

FREDRICKSON: I think it's open to discussion. I think-- I've, I've, I've missed a lot of what's been happening. I just kind of was filled in a little bit. I think-- there's a-- I, I don't know. There's-- it feels like a bit of a powder keg right now, being in here.

McKINNEY: Maybe, it, it-- I'm not saying it is, but maybe perception-wise, because she decided to take this to the end of the day, it might be perceived as some sort of retaliation.

HANSEN: OK. So we'll hold off until next week. At least everyone's got an understanding of what's going on.

ARCH: And we now, we now have a draft of what--

HANSEN: Yep. Yep. So we're gonna think about it and if they have any recommendations or if they have anything for the letter, if they want to-- just let me know. So, OK. All right. I'll entertain motions to adjourn.

BOSTAR: Second.

HANSEN: All right. Thanks