



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

62ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCEAN CORAL SPRING RESORT

AUGUST 17 – 19, 2026

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
SIXTY SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCEAN CORAL SPRING RESORT
TRELAWNY, JAMAICA

AUGUST 17 - 19, 2026

1. COMPOSITION

The following persons were elected to serve the Credentials Committee for the Conference year 2025 – 2026.

Chairman

Sharlene Mills - Charlemont High, Linstead – St. Catherine

Members

Mrs Ria Richards-Peart - Jonathan Grant High, Spanish Town – St.Cath.
Ms Devoney Chambers - Greater Portmore High – St. Catherine
Mrs Antoinette Levy-Riley - Cacoon Primary and Infant – Westmoreland
Mr Clement Harris - St. Andrew Primary – Kingston

The committee was served by Mrs Faithlyn Meeks-Ellis – Administration, HR and Finance

2. MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	# OF PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE
Decenber 2, 2025 (Zoom Platform)	6
January 27, 2026 (Zoom Platform)	6
February 23, 2026 (Head Office)	7
February 25, 2026 (Zoom Platform)	7
June 23, 2026 (Head Office-Ballots Counting)	-

3. Terms of Reference:

The Credentials Committee shall consist of five (5) persons and shall be responsible for the examination of the credentials of each delegate elected to attend and vote at meetings of the Annual Conference and Special Conference and to certify whether or

not they are in order. They shall also examine and certify the credentials of members elected to the General Council and to attend any other matter related to the credentials of members as delegates by the General Council or Conference. Its members shall act as scrutineers at the Annual and any Special Council.

The quorum for a meeting shall be three (3).

4. President's Mandate

1. Develop a plan of action to guide the work of the committee.
2. To spearhead the review of the roles and codes of ethics governing the Presidential Elect elections and to make recommendations to the General Council at the November meeting.
3. To conduct a training session for all members of the Credential Committee on their roles and responsibilities by the end of September.
4. Spearheaded by the JTA Secretariat, the Credential Committee is mandated to collaborate with the Professional Advancement and Teacher Welfare Committee to execute training for new members of the General Council and Central Executive, ensuring they are fully aware of the Association's Standing Orders.
5. To collaborate with the JTA Secretariat in the development and implementation of an online voting system for the 2026 Presidential elections and internal voting processes.
6. To advise the chairman or the Annual Conference, General Council and Central Executive as to whether there is a quorum for said meeting before the commencement of said meeting.
7. Review the rule governing the JTA President election to ensure that the elections are conducted in a spirit of decency and decorum.
8. To ensure that all JTA members are allowed to vote in the President-Elect Elections.
9. Arrange for the training of Returning Officers and Presiding Officers in the President-Elect elections.
10. To ensure that regular meetings conform to the principles of orderly conduct and the Memorandum and Articles of Association.
11. To ensure that the Memorandum and Articles of Association are being addressed during meetings and make the necessary interventions when necessary.

The conference year officially commenced on September 1, 2025. Typically, our meetings begin after the Central Executive Training, an essential event for preparing our leaders and committee

members for the challenges ahead. This year, the training was conducted in late October. Unfortunately, just days after this crucial training, Jamaica was struck by a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane named Melissa. The storm caused widespread devastation, particularly affecting many of our colleagues residing in the western region of the island.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, members of the committee, along with a number of our colleagues, accompanied the President to the affected areas. This visit was vital to assess the situation first-hand and understand the extent of the damage and suffering. What we encountered was shocking and heart-wrenching; the devastation resembled scenes from a horror-disaster movie, with homes destroyed, infrastructure severely damaged, and communities in disarray. People were in desperate need of support and assistance.

In response to the urgent needs of our colleagues and their families, we joined forces with the President to organize and distribute care packages. These packages contained essential supplies, intended to provide some form of relief to our colleagues who had suffered tremendous losses.

Due to the significant delays caused by the hurricane, we experienced a late start to our conference activities. Nonetheless, through determination and teamwork, we were able to accomplish nearly all of our mandates for the year.

- The committee convened and established guidelines to direct its work. The main purposes of the committee, along with its major roles and responsibilities, were also outlined..
- The roles and codes of ethics governing the Presidential Elect elections were reviewed, and the members found no need for adjustments since the document was recently revised.
- The collaboration between the Professional Advancement and Teacher Welfare Committee did not happen; however, a document was created and shared with both the General Council and Central Executive outlining the Association's Standing Order.
- There was a proposal for the President-Elect 2026 elections to be conducted through an online portal. However, during a meeting of the General Council, a vote was held on this proposal. The vote did not support the proposal, so there was no need to pursue this mandate further.

- During the President-Elect campaigning, the committee closely observed the entire process. Candidates were required to submit all campaigning materials to the committee before sharing them with the public. Although there were a few minor issues, nothing serious occurred. The process ran smoothly; the elections took place, the ballots were counted, and Dr. Maureen Mullings-Nelson was declared the victor.

5. **Recommendation**

Define and publish a document outlining criteria for JTA President Elect Candidate to be presented to District Associations and Parish Associations (Committee 2024 – 2025).

6. **Commendations**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to President Mark Malabver for his confidence in my abilities by appointing me to chair the committee over the past year. His trust in my leadership is immensely meaningful to me.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Faithilyn Meeks-Ellis and all the committee members. Their remarkable dedication and tireless efforts were crucial in helping us fulfill our mandates. Throughout the year, we encountered a few challenges, but thanks to their unwavering commitment and collaborative spirit, we were able to achieve our goals and make significant progress. Each member contributed valuable insights and skills, which greatly enriched our discussions and decision-making processes. Thank you all for your outstanding contributions.

Sharlene Mills (Chairman)

