



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE TO THE 62ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCEAN CORAL SPRING, TRELAWNY AUGUST 17-19, 2026

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

Officers

- Mr. Mark Malabver - President
- Mrs. LaSonja Harrison - President Elect
- Dr. Mark Smith - Immediate Past President

Administrative Staff

- Dr. Margaret Chin - Assistant Secretary General, Professional Services

Members

- Mrs. Michelle Barnes-Evans - Chairman
- Mrs. Colleen Reid-Grant - General Council & Vice Chairman
- Miss Itena Williams - General Council
- Mr. Rohan Lawrence - General Council
- Mr. Ansell Palmer - General Council
- Miss Lavern Johnson - Co-option - Recording Secretary
- Mrs. Onex Bowen - Co-option
- Mr. Adli Lewis - Co-option
- Mr. Mark Jackson - Co-option

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) The Primary Committee shall consist of five (5) members of General Council with the power to co-opt not more than four (4) persons and shall consider all matters affecting the Primary level of education.
- (2) The quorum for meetings shall be four. (4)

PRESIDENT'S MANDATE FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR 2025-2026

In addition to the aforementioned mandate in the Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the President has requested of the Committee members to undertake the following activities for the Conference Year 2025-2026.

PRESIDENT'S MANDATE

1. Develop a plan of action to guide the work of the committee. **ACHIEVED**

2. Examine the relevance of multigrade schools in Jamaica ecosystem and submit a position paper to the Education Symposium within the context of TREND. **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**
3. Collaborate with the Education & Research, Secondary and Early Childhood Committees, to examine the current funding arrangement for schools and make recommendations on possible changes to funding these schools. **NOT ACHIEVED**
4. Collaborate with Secondary, Tertiary, Education & Research, Public Relations and Professional Advancement and Teacher Welfare Committees to host at least one (1) Educational Conference with an emphasis on TVET and STEAM Education. **ACHIEVED**
5. Collaborate with the Education and Research, Tertiary, Secondary, Special Education and Early Childhood Committees to interrogate the recently published Philosophy of Education to determine the extent to which it is aligned with the current realities of the education system and make recommendations where necessary. **NOT ACHIEVED**
6. In collaboration with Education and Research and other sector committees, undertake research on the state of teacher shortage in Jamaica and its impact on student performance and produce a position paper. **NOT ACHIEVED**
7. Examine the current infrastructure in our Primary schools to determine its adequacy and relevance, and to make the necessary recommendations to address the issues identified. **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**
8. Collaborate with Secondary Committee and make recommendations as to how better synergies can be created between both sectors for better student outcomes. **NOT ACHIEVED**
10. Submit and present to General Council on November 2025, March 2026 and June 2026. **ACHIEVED**
11. Present a written report to the JTA's 62nd Annual Conference on or before July 1, 2026. **ACHIEVED**

MEETINGS

The Primary Committee convened seven (7) regular meetings (three were held via Zoom Platform, two face to face) between October 2025 and July 2026. Regular meetings were usually held in the Caucus room.

Dates	Meetings
October 7, 2025	ZOOM
October 11, 2025	JTA Head Office
November 24, 2025	ZOOM
January 10, 2026	JTA Head Office
March 10, 2026	ZOOM
March 21, 2026	ZOOM
April 10, 2026	WHATSAPP

COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS

We had a WhatsApp group through which we communicated.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

COOPTIONS

The Committee acted upon the regulations as outlined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association and co-opted five (5) members who were identified for their specific areas of expertise.

At the second meeting held face to face at the Head office, the President's Mandate was tabled and discussed. The President spoke on his expectations of the committee and implored all to do their best in executing given tasks. Additionally, a work plan was crafted to assist in guiding the work of the committee as we worked towards accomplishing our goals.

A questionnaire was formulated to capture details on the multigrade schools in Jamaica. This would enable the committee to have concrete and factual information when presenting our position paper on the relevance of multigrade schools in present day Jamaica.

At our third meeting, it became necessary to discuss the way forward as the activities planned for the term will not materialised (Education Symposium) due to the passage of hurricane Melissa. We discussed the importance of pivoting at this crucial time.

The hosting of a Multigrade forum was agreed on. Roles were assigned to individuals; flyer was done and we were waiting on the Servicing Officer to get a guest presenter from the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information to confirm the date which was tentative set for May 14 or 22, 2026. This did not become a reality as a multiplicity of challenges arose. (Sickness, school activities, JTA national activities etc)

CARE PACKAGES DISTRIBUTION AFTER HURRICANE MELISSA

Members of the Primary Committee joined President Malabver's **National Relief Oversight Committee** as they distributed care packages to affected teachers in Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Elizabeth. Member Colleen Reid -Grant's school (Duhaney Park Primary School) also participated in the above initiative, where her school donated care packages to the Lowe River Primary and Infant School family.

SOLIDARITY VISIT OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

In June, members of the Primary Committee participated in the various activities planned. These include a welcome reception /cultural event, a forum on disaster risk management and school visits to St. Elizabeth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that the committee adopts a more proactive approach to professional development by identifying the emerging needs and priorities within the sector and planning its own professional development sessions accordingly. These initiatives should include retooling and upskilling sessions for professionals working in the sector, with a focus on strengthening pedagogical practices, improving efficiency, integrating current educational trends and technologies, and supporting continuous professional growth. Such targeted training will help ensure that practitioners remain competent, confident, and well-equipped to deliver high-quality outcomes while advancing the overall standards of the sector.

- The Primary Committee should be allowed to publish opinions in the media on things affecting the sector, at least once per term.
- There should be continued advocacy for improved resources and working conditions for teachers in Primary schools.
- Government needs to implement regular maintenance programmes. These will enable the development of maintenance schedules for buildings, furniture and equipment as well as conduct annual infrastructure audits in schools.
- The Primary Committee should host a termly podcast series to discuss emerging issues, highlight innovations and best practices, and engage educators, policymakers, parents, and students in promoting shared solutions and the professional growth of education personnel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND COMMENDATIONS

As I conclude my tenure as Chairman, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve in this role. I extend heartfelt thanks to our President Mr Mark Malabver for the confidence placed in me through my appointment as Chairman and for the guidance and encouragement provided throughout this journey. I am equally grateful to every member of the committee for your unwavering support, commitment, and teamwork. Your willingness to share ideas, embrace differing perspectives, and work collaboratively made our efforts both meaningful and rewarding, despite the challenges we encountered, including competing priorities, time constraints, and limited resources.

CONCLUSION

While we did not fully accomplish every aspect of our mandate, I am sure if given the opportunity to serve again, we will certainly make better progress as experience teaches wisdom.

As we close this chapter and look ahead, may we remain united in purpose and committed to fostering a culture of excellence, teamwork, and holistic development through sports. Thank you, and may we continue to serve with distinction.

Long live the JTA! Let us continue to unite and serve.

Prepared by: *Michelle Barnes-Evans (Mrs.)*
Chairman