

Chris Bonner

Summit Board of Education

Chris Bonner is the current President of the Summit Board of Education. He is the Chair of the Negotiations Committee and a member of the Communications Committee.

Mr. Bonner is from Roanoke, IL and enlisted in the US Army Reserves as an Infantryman in 1988. He graduated as a distinguished military graduate from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Health. He was commissioned in May of 1994 and attended flight school at Ft. Rucker, AL. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the 78th Aviation Battalion at Camp Zama, Japan where he served as flight platoon leader, company executive officer and flight operations officer. After more training at Ft. Rucker and the Combined Armed Services Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, Mr. Bonner was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, KY in August 1999, where he worked as the assistant operations officer until taking command of a UH-60 helicopter company in June 2000.

Mr. Bonner left the Army to join the Coast Guard in December 2001. Assigned to San Francisco, CA, Mr. Bonner served as a search and rescue pilot and safety officer leading several international counter narcotics missions until 2006 when he was assigned as a standardization and instructor pilot at the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL. In 2010, he was assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. where he managed major headquarters programs including the service's learning management system and the graduate school and voluntary education programs. Mr. Bonner retired from the Armed Services in 2014, was accepted to Teach for America and started his second career as a 2nd grade teacher at KIPP's THRIVE Academy in Newark. In 2016, Mr. Bonner became the Assistant Director of School Operations managing all non-instructional programs for 2 schools and in July of 2017, was promoted to Director of Campus Operations for KIPP: New Jersey's only high school. In October 2019, Chris became the Director of Operations at Kent Place School, an independent, all-girls, PreK-12 school in Summit. There he leads the Operations Division consisting of facilities, campus security, transportation, food service, grounds, events and facilities rental program.

Mr. Bonner holds a Masters of Education from the University of Missouri. He and his wife Caryn have one daughter. Mr. Bonner has dedicated his life to the service of others and is honored to serve the Summit education community.