

**Sabrina Garrett**

*Special to The Chronicle*

Larry Tomlinson was named Zone 5 Wilson County Board of Education member during the meeting of the Wilson County Commission on Monday night.

Tomlinson was nominated for the position along with Bennie Jennings, Shell Gardner, Steve Johnson and Bryan Keith Alexander. Each of the men was given a few minutes to share their reasons for pursuing the office at the podium. Commissioners voted Tomlinson into the office with a majority of 18 votes. Gardner received four votes and Alexander received two votes.

Tomlinson is a former county commissioner and said he was very interested in the board member position and the future of Wilson County Schools because his two daughters graduated from the Wilson County School System and his four grandchildren are currently being educated in the system. He also has a history as a former Board of Education member representing Zone 5 from 1998 to 2004.

"I will do everything I can to faithfully serve this school system," he said before asking that county Mayor Randall Hutto administer the oath of office. "I would like to take the oath of office tonight so that I can hit the ground running in the morning."

Tomlinson will replace former board member Lasater, who resigned from the position after being investigated for misconduct as a Wilson County Sheriff's Deputy.

New Director of Schools Dr. Tim Setterlund took a few minutes at the meeting to deliver his first

report. Setterlund said that he has experienced 10 days on the job and that every person he has met has “reaffirmed that this is a blessing to me.”

Setterlund said they are eagerly anticipating the arrival of Aug. 1, the first day of the 2013-2014 school year, as well as welcoming 200 new teachers to the Wilson County School System on July 23.

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