**Group B Discussion Summary for Week of February 14, 2010**

**Stakeholders Project**

We all started work on our stakeholders project. There was some confusion over if this was just a plan or if we needed to complete surveys and tabulate results by the February 27, 2010 due date. It appears most of us are focusing on administrators and teachers for this project.

There was also some confusion over the column labeled “test group.” Thanks to one member who cleared up that confusion – explaining that you would want to test a survey with a small group of stakeholders before sending out the “real” thing. This will help to work out problems before the survey is sent out to a lot of people.

We all agreed it was important to contact our legislators vie email and letters but one member also suggested inviting legislators to visit his library. Although he admitted the scheduling of this would be difficult, it may be well-worth the effort. Another suggestion would be meet with a legislator using Skype – perhaps this could be available for WEMTA members at the upcoming Spring Conference.

The group was also in agreement with the need to communicate regularly with administrators and teachers – and not just about problems or concerns. It’s important to keep them in the loop about the positive things already happening in our libraries. We are our biggest cheerleaders. Cheer loudly.

**Wisconsin Study**

The study was clear in its findings that a strong Library Media Program has a direct and clearly positive impact on student achievement and learning. It was clear that the more the LMS worked collaboratively with teachers, classes, and individual students, the higher student achievement scores went up.

Group B noticed this clear correlation, but also expressed frustration with the current budget woes that ALL districts in Wisconsin are facing. While it’s clear staffing needs to be increased to allow the LMS to focus on collaboration rather than basic, day-to-day tasks in the library, our biggest worry is just maintaining current staffing. The idea of requesting additional staffing at this time would be considered laughable to administrators and other stakeholders.

One group member included a link to a You Tube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0aMtdpVNG8>

This school district created a promotional video for their LM program. It was meant to be viewed by ALL stakeholders – school boards, administrators, teachers, parents, and students – in an effort to show how import that LM program is to a school and for its students.

Some suggested that we take this idea to our own libraries and have students create a video on our home libraries to share with stakeholders. The benefits would be three-fold – students who created the video would build ITL skills, it’s an opportunity for the LMS to work collaboratively with a teacher and class, and it would be have “wow factor” for the stakeholders who viewed it.

**Library Statistics**

Our group members are already tracking circulation statistics, students who use the library, classes who use the library, lab usage, and collaborative projects.

One member said she was also tracking her library aide’s duties – to show the need to have her as well as keep her on task.

Another member suggested the use of a computer program call Library Task Tracker – an inexpensive program that tracks all the various jobs we do during the day to show how our time is spent.