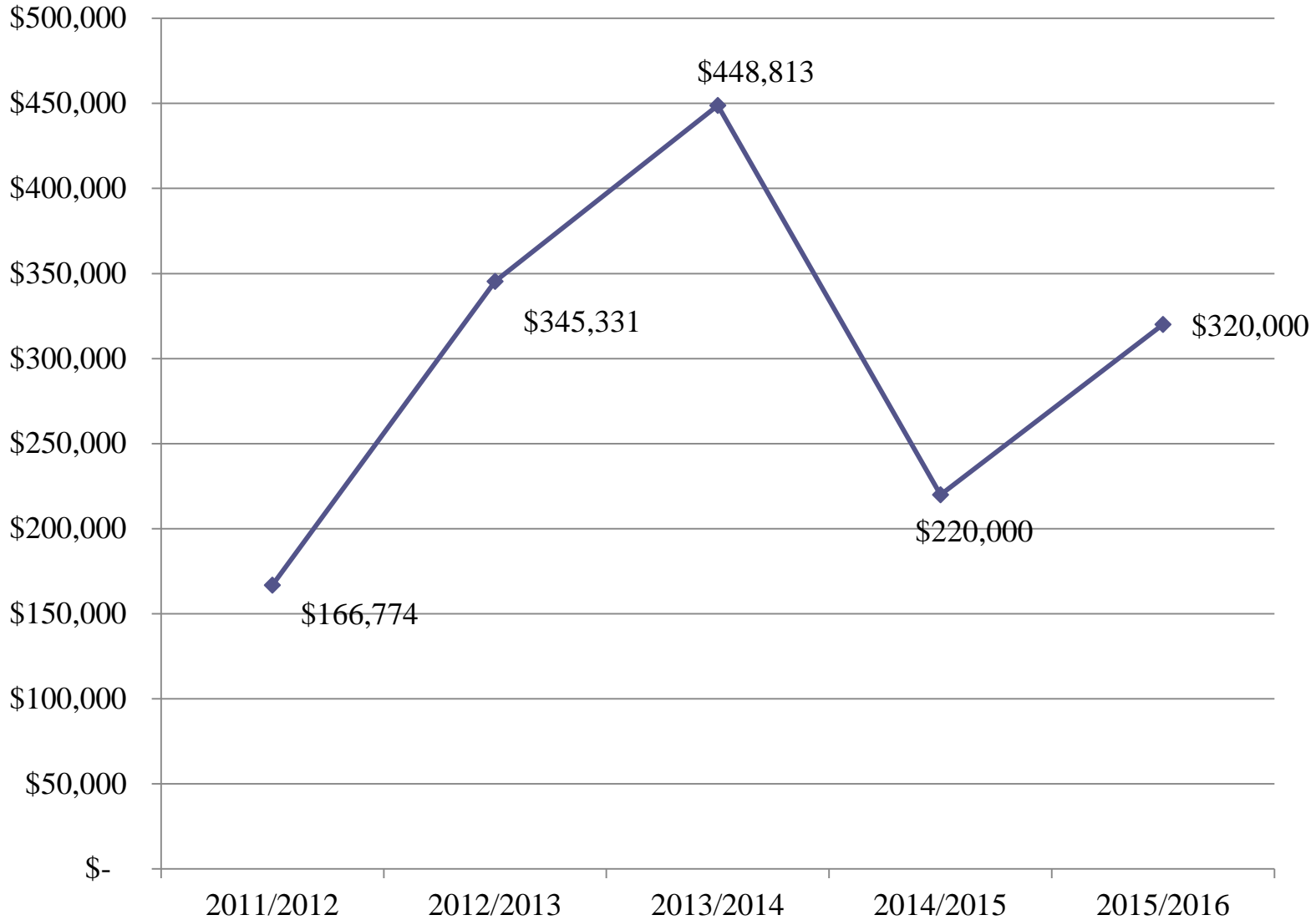


LEGAL FEES



Legal Fees Explanation

One question we received a few times was about our legal fees, both overall and more specifically with respect to last year's investigation into the public release of a number of our local teacher-generated common assessments. Our legal fees did increase significantly in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, although even at their peak they were significantly less than one-half of one percent of our total expenditures. In 2011-2012, the district's legal fees totaled \$166,774. In 2012-2013, however, the expenditures came in significantly higher, predominantly due to the negotiation of the 2012-2015 collective bargaining agreement with the Montclair Education Association, which continued throughout the entire 2012-2013 fiscal year, as well as rising legal fees on special education matters. The total legal fees that year came to \$345,331. In 2013-2014, the district saw a continued increase in legal costs relating to special education, as well as negotiations with the Montclair Head Custodians Association and the Montclair Principals Association, as well as the investigation into the released common assessments. The total legal fees in 2013-2014 were \$448,813, including \$67,911 in fees for the investigation.

This year, we're trending better on our legal fees, having budgeted \$220,000 and expended just \$86,506 through the bills and claims approved at the Board meeting last week. However, we expect that number to rise as we begin negotiations on our next collective bargaining agreement with the MEA. Because it appears at this point that a large portion of those negotiations will take place during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, we have budgeted \$320,000 for legal fees next year.